

Conference Attendees Celebrate PEACCE

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Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Farmers have always known that they are stewards of the environment. However at a luncheon Tuesday at the Whitaker Center, several producers received recognition for their conservation efforts.

Twenty farm owners who successfully completed the requirements of the voluntary Pennsylvania Environmental Agricultural Conservation Certification of Excellence (PEACCE) pilot program received plaques.

The luncheon was part of the 55th annual State Conservation Commission (SCC) and Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) Joint Annual Conference.

The PEACCE program was conducted in Chester, Berks, and Lancaster counties. Promoting environmentally friendly practices and recognizing producers who meet the standards of the program are the program goals.

The four main components of the program include an environmental awareness course; an independent on-farm review and

assessment; an on-farm evaluation; and continuing educational requirements.

The course is designed and offered by Penn State and funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. A committee is completing the details on the final certification program.

Keynote speaker of the luncheon was Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary David E. Hess.

"It's important that we stop for a few minutes every year and take stock of what we're doing and what we're achieving," he said, adding that the time was also important "to honor others who are accomplishing great things."

"I want to give you a view from the secretary's desk," he said as he shared stories of conservation efforts across the commonwealth. Hess has traveled to every county in Pennsylvania.

"I've seen many creative programs to protect the environment. There are tremendous accomplishments and innovation in the conservation districts across Pennsylvania."

Conservation education ef-



These producers were recognized for their completion of the environmental PEACCE pilot program. Lancaster County producers include, from back row, left, Luke and Mike Brubaker, Brubaker Farms; Karl Hess, Silver Run Farm; Jay and Lorene Bomgardner, Bomgardner Farm; Todd and Roger Rohrer, Roger & Todd Rohrer Farm; and Dennis and Ellen Eby, Pequea Lawn Farm. In front, from left, are Elma Hess, Silver Run Farm; Steve and Cheri Groff, Cedar Meadow Farm; and Jennifer and Daniel Heller, Flintrock Farms.

orts, stream bank fencing, farm tours, and composting were a few

of the examples he gave that illustrated "the power of partnering," according to Hess.

clude an extension of, and funding doubling of the Growing Greener

Other accomplishments in-

(Turn to Page A32)



From Berks County, producers completing the program include, back row, from left, James and Sue Younker, Kirbyville Holsteins; Pat Shea, Tammy Renno, and Deb Martz, Berkshire Layers; Dale Snader, Tim Grube, and Doug Metzler, Dutch Country - Deck Road Farm; and Stephen Burkholder, Greater Vision Farm. Front row, from left, are Dr. Joe Jurgielewicz and Michael Werner, Mountain Breeze Duck Farm; Mark Bricker and Rick Keeseman, Mountain View Farm #1; and Darlene Burkholder, Greater Vision Farm. Also receiving the award are Mark, Nancy, and David Wolfskill, Marr-Anne Farms.

Cattlemen Address Issues

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 1,000 producers and cattle industry representatives from across the country came together in Reno, Nev., for the 2002 Cattle Industry Summer Conference, July 17-20.

Individuals had the opportunity to bring up major issues that are affecting their farming and ranching operations.

"As you might expect, the beef checkoff was one of the key issues discussed at our meeting," said NCBA President Wythe Willey.

"Our members feel strongly that NCBA should continue its efforts to support and maintain the current \$1-per-head beef checkoff."

During committee meetings, members had a chance to discuss top priorities for the year, listen to fellow producers and talk one-on-one with NCBA policy representatives. After four days of meetings and public forums, NCBA members passed resolutions that address their concerns.

The new resolutions passed at the Summer Conference serve as a road map for NCBA members, staff, and state affiliates as they address policy issues.

Producers bring the realities of critical issues such as the current drought, cattle health, market conditions, and property rights immediately into the spotlight," said Willey.

NCBA members passed more than 30 resolutions and directives during the Board of Directors meeting.

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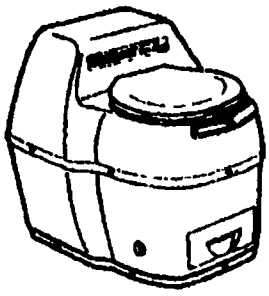
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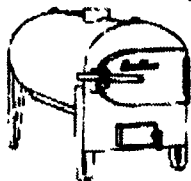
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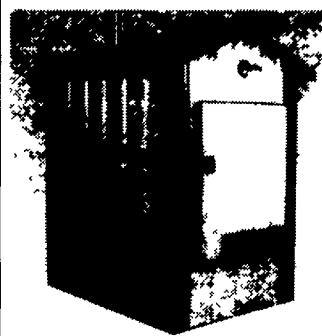
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