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Pride, Hope Central To Outgoing, Potential Incoming Pa. Governors



Mike Fisher



Ed Rendell

Gov. Schweiker, Candidates Address Ag Progress Luncheon

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — Pennsylvania Gov. Mark Schweiker spoke about pride.

And Pennsylvania's farmers responded with pride, giving standing ovations as Schweiker was introduced, as he spoke, and again when he completed his speech to hundreds of farm families at the Wednesday luncheon

during Penn State's Ag Progress Days.

The two gubernatorial candidates to take his place after the state's general election Nov. 5 followed Schweiker.

The governor's "legacy of pride" for Pennsylvania reached national eminence one day late in July.

"It was a Sunday morning, and those nine miners came back to

the surface, to the air I breathe right here in this fine hall," he said about the Quecreek Mine disaster near Somerset late last month. There, nine miners spent three days trapped in the mine, while 200 rescue workers brought them successfully to the surface, on a field at the edge of a farm owned by Lori and Bill Arnold.

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Gov. Mark Schweiker, far left, greets young visitors Wednesday before the Ag Progress Days luncheon. He's joined by Dr. Robert Steele, dean of the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, center, and Sam Hayes Jr., state secretary of agriculture.

Photos by Andy Andrews, editor



Sjoerd Duiker, Penn State assistant professor of soil management, spoke about the benefits of "prescription tillage" and "soil husbandry" during a deep tillage demonstration Tuesday morning at Ag Progress. See story page A33. Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

Persistent Drought Deepens Across Lower Susquehanna, Delaware Valleys

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — "Wanted: Rainmaker — Apply Within."

That's the message written on the sign at Starr Pottery & Bronze Barn near Abottstown, Adams County. It expresses the wish of a lot of people across the region — not just farmers.

"We have two kinds of drought," said Paul Craig, extension agent in Dauphin County. "We have the agronomic drought that affects crops, and we have the long-term groundwater drought."

Crops from Fulton County to the eastern reaches of the state will probably yield about 50 percent of a normal harvest, with some areas producing as low as 10-15 percent of a crop, Craig said.

Corn planted in the latter part

A Winner!

Ice cream freezer winner selected at Ag Progress Days is Brandon Altland, Dillsburg. Congratulations, Brandon!

of May is the hardest hit because of the high temperatures and dry conditions that prevailed during the critical pollination stage, he said.

Extension agent Del Voigt said he recently made a count of 500 ears on a 28,000-plant-per-acre stand of corn in Lebanon County.

That amounts to ears on less than 20 percent of the stalks, not to mention the small size of the ears.

"There are pockets that are in better shape," Voigt said. "They're the exception." These

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Farmers Ask For Better Weed Control In CREP Fields

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

DANVILLE (Montour Co.) — Jay Wissler is concerned about stands of Canada thistles growing near the land he farms in Montour County. He believes the white, downy seeds drift into his fields and increase the weed pressure on his corn, soybean, and

small grain crops.

The problem, Wissler claims, is caused by the "mismanagement" of noxious weeds under the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), started in 1985, and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), mandated in the 1996 Freedom to Farm Act and reauthorized in the new Farm Bill.

"I wouldn't mind if these places had a few thistles, but this is criminal," Wissler said.

Landowners enrolled in either program are responsible for controlling weeds and are subject to penalties if they fail to do so, according to William Foose of the state Farm Service Agency (FSA), the arm of the USDA that manages the programs.

"Within the contract, it's pretty clear they have to control the weeds," Foose said. Landowners enrolled in CREP also need to implement a program that establishes one or more plant types, including warm-season grasses, cool-season grasses, or trees native to the state. Plantings can be designated as riparian (waterway) buffers to enhance water quality and as other uses that protect soil and wildlife habitat.

CREP landowners are paid cost-share funds for seeding, and

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Brian Egan demonstrates horse handling and training at "The Equine Experience" during Ag Progress Days. Egan is an extension program associate in the department of dairy and animal science. Read more about The Equine Experience on page A18. Photo by Michelle Kunjappu