

N.J. Leaders Tout Ethanol Production In State

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

MICKLETON, N.J. — New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey joined N.J. Ag Secretary Charles Kuperus and the N.J. Farm Bureau at Brown Brothers Farm here Tuesday to show support for a proposed ethanol production plant in the southern part of the state.

The plant would be the first ethanol production facility in the Mid-Atlantic region, McGreevey said. Among its potential benefits, he cited expanded markets for farmers, the proximity of southern New Jersey to major gasoline refiners for blending ethanol in the fuel, and the useful co-products of ethanol production.

The proposed facility would be

capable of producing about 40 million gallons of ethanol, 120,000 tons of feed-grade dried distiller's grain, and 100,000 tons of carbon dioxide, according to Ed Stahl of the Garden State Ethanol Project.

While the final site for the plant remains to be chosen, Stahl said the choices have been narrowed down to four locations in Gloucester and Salem counties south of Philadelphia. According to McGreevey, the goal is for a site to be selected by the first quarter of next year.

Ag Secretary Kuperus touted the project as the key to a successful grain business for the region's producers.

"We need to keep farmers on the farmland, and make sure it's profitable," Kuperus said.

Peter Furey, N.J. Farm Bureau director, noted that U.S. lawmakers have been developing initiatives that include more cooperation between oil interests and renewable fuel advocates.

"The sparring between petroleum and ethanol is now finished. They've joined hands," he said.

Several renewable fuel standard bills have been introduced in Congress, and a recent analysis points to the energy security and economy-stimulating benefits of renewable fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel.

The Renewable Fuels Association, National Corn Growers Association, and National Biodiesel Board applauded the analysis conducted by economist John Urbanckuk of AUS consultants.

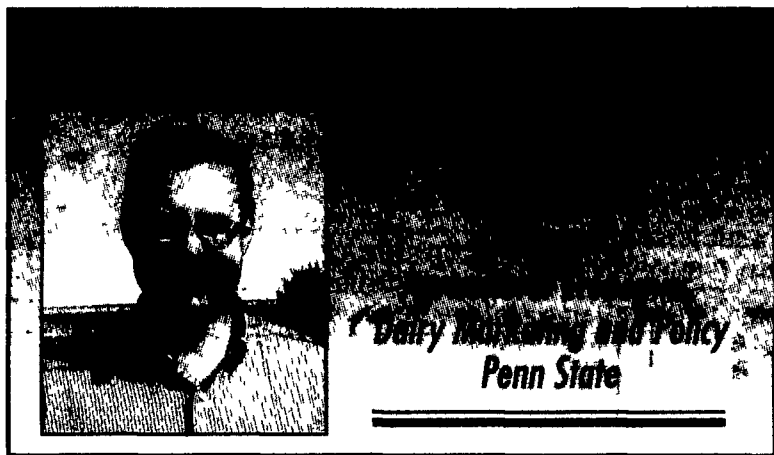
Urbanckuk studied the impact of increasing the renewable content of motor vehicle fuels from current levels to four percent by 2016. The study found that such a renewable fuels standard would increase the demand for corn used to produce ethanol from about 650 million bushels to 2.5 billion bushels by 2016, reduce crude oil imports by an average of 302 million barrels annually, and create 300,000 new jobs by 2016. The study also included figures for soybeans based on projected biodiesel production.

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National Guernsey Queen Julie Sollenberger selects her favorite Guernsey from the family's mixed herd. Turn to page B6 to read more about this achieving young woman who credits her mom for instilling persistence to follow one's dreams.

Photo by Lou Ann Good, food and family features editor



August 23, 2002 SIGN-UP PROCEDURE FOR DAIRY PRODUCERS FOR MILC BENEFITS

Dairy producers in Pennsylvania are now eligible to sign up for the new Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) payments that are part of the 2002 Farm Bill. It is a simple, five-step procedure. This should be done at your local

Farm Services Agency (FSA) office.

• Step 1. Get sign-up form CCC-580 from USDA. You can get this form in one of two ways. Visit your local FSA office or download the form online (via Adobe Acrobat reader) at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/daftp/psd/>

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Weed Control: Landfill's Goats Maintain Greens

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff

NARVON (Chester Co.) — There are probably days when you've envied gourmet food writers while you think of the luxury cuisine that it is their job to eat.

If weeds and grass are high-end fare, then the goats and

sheep on the hillsides of Lancaster Landfill are enjoying their jobs, too.

For the past three spring seasons, an increasingly large group of goats and sheep have been arriving at the landfill to keep weeds and grass low on areas inaccessible to mowers.

"We started with 25 at first, and have increased to 50 animals," according to Chester County Solid Waste Authority superintendent Gerald Myer.

Dr. Robert Herr and his wife Betty — operators of Nix Besser Farm, a sheep and goat operation — purchase the animals for the landfill and work as consultants.

"What we're trying to do is keep it (vegetation) down," said Myer.

The 42 goats are responsible for the weeds while the eight sheep prefer to consume the grass.

"There are quite a few weeds, so there's more eating for goats than there is for the sheep," Myer said.

The animals have about 20 acres to graze, plus a sheltered area with a shed, water, and rubbing and climbing areas.

"Goats will browse and eat the things that would become bushy or trees," said Betty Herr. The animals chew down the vegetation that landfill operators do not want on the landfill, since large bushes or trees could breach the liner with their roots.

The flock is a mix of several breeds, as the Herrs purchase "anything that we feel that we

can buy reasonable enough that will hardy enough," she said. They buy all nannies because they tend to be the most reasonably priced.

A former executive director of the landfill read about the use of grazing animals to clear power lines and pasture, and several years later, when time allowed for fencing and preparation, a herd was introduced onto the brush-covered hillside.

The public relations aspect of having the animals as part of a landfill has also been valuable, according to Myer. "It's a farming community, so we felt that it would appeal to them," he said.

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Penn State Cuts Staff

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Nineteen people are losing their jobs in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences and dozens of additional positions are being lost through attrition and other changes as a result of funding from the state and federal governments that has been cut or has not kept up with inflation in recent years.

The economic downturn that contributed to state funding cuts for fiscal year 2002-2003, combined with a multiyear erosion of

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Hagner Mister, Maryland secretary of agriculture, joins the Produce Man after the start of the Maryland State Fair cantaloupe-eating contest Tuesday afternoon at the fairgrounds in Timonium. Read more about the fair this issue.

Photo by Andy Andrews, editor