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Livestock Producers Take Message To Harrisburg

Grange Weighs In On S.B. 1413 As Court Responds To Fulton County Case

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin

Co.) — Four Pennsylvania livestock producers met with lawmakers and media representa-

tives at the Capitol on Tuesday morning to talk about their operations and how local ordinances have affected them or could potentially affect them.

The informal breakfast was organized by the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, a group that has thrown its support behind Pennsylvania Senate Bill 1413. If adopted, this law could require townships to pay legal fees if certain local ordinances affecting agriculture are challenged and ruled illegal. The bill passed the Senate in April and moved to the House for consideration in May.

Craig Richard of Northumberland County raises about 12,000 hogs per year in two facilities in Locust Township, Columbia County, where a township ordinance limits livestock operations to 150 animal units — or a total of 150,000 pounds of live animal weight. The regulations specify water, setback, and acreage requirements as well, he said.

He is concerned about his son, a 20-year-old college student, seeing little future in farming because of such ordinances preventing further expansion of his livestock operations.

Richard also raises broilers in two houses and runs a beef feedlot, but claims township authorities seem most opposed to hog operations, apparently because of greater odor potential.

However, the regular checks Richard receives from the corporation with which his hogs are contracted provides him a steady income that helps keep him on the farm, he said. That allows

him the opportunity to pursue other types of agriculture, including about 1,800 acres of field crops, plus sweet corn that he sells at a roadside market

With weather and prices making it tough to turn much of a profit on field corn and soybean

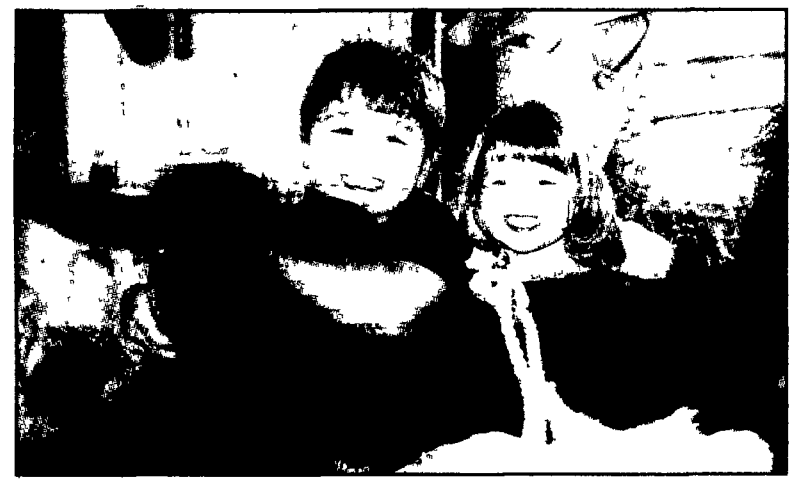
crops, "The sweet corn has kept us afloat," Richard said.

Doug Graybill, a hog and poultry producer from Granville Township, Bradford County, represented one party that success-

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Andy Freitag stands at the halter of the grand champion Clydesdale mare, Solomon's Asti, exhibited by Greenwood Farms Wednesday at KILE. Read more about the show on page A24.
Photo by Andy Andrews, editor



Trevor and Mariah Tompkins are eager to show visitors all the things they do on their farm. Their parents, Mark and Cindy Tompkins, own Evergreen Lane Farm, Montrose, and are offering visitors a fun-filled "Day on a Dairy Farm" Oct. 12. See page B10 for details about the Susquehanna County event.

Pork Industry Fosters Positive Attitude

BRIAN SNYDER
Center Co. Correspondent
CENTRE HALL (Centre Co.)
— Farmers and consumers who lament the changes in America's

hog industry over the last few decades, and who long for the wonderful taste of pork they re-

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Fisher, Rendell Respond To Candidate Questions

With Election A Month Away, Candidates Tackle Ag Issues

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor
EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — Pennsylvania's election of a new governor could hinge on several issues in the next month, including revising what some see as an outdated and outmoded property tax, how much influence agriculture will have in

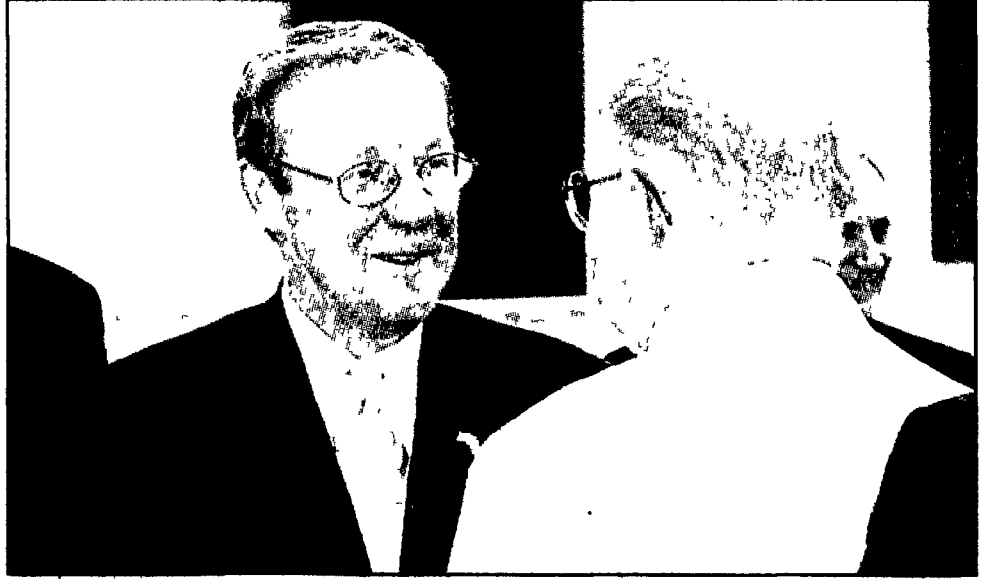
zoning requests, and whether production agriculture can remain viable in the state.
Two candidates are set for a show-

down a month from now, on Nov. 5, when voters will cast their decision for either Republican candidate and state Attorney General Mike Fisher

or Democratic candidate and former Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell.
Here we present a roundtable of the issues, with questions and an-

swers from two candidates.
First, Lancaster Farming presents Mike Fisher's answers, presented in early September this year at a Pennsylvania Agricultural Issues Dialogue at Landis Valley Museum. Then we present Ed Rendell's answers.

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Pennsylvania Attorney General and Republican gubernatorial candidate Mike Fisher spoke in early September at the Pennsylvania Agricultural Issues Dialogue at Landis Valley Museum.
Photo by Andy Andrews, editor



Ed Rendell, former Philadelphia mayor and Democratic gubernatorial candidate, spoke at Penn State's Ag Progress Days in late August.
Photo by Andy Andrews, editor