

Ag Department Likely To Change Under Rendell

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nia have yet to be defined. The Democrat and former mayor of Philadelphia won Tuesday's election by about 275,000 votes — 1,699,832 compared to the 1,424,932 that went to state Attorney General Mike Fisher.

In many of the state's more conservative and rural areas, though, Republican Fisher won by a hefty margin. In Lancaster County, for example, he outpolled Rendell by more than 2 to 1. Similar results were posted in most Pennsylvania counties where agriculture plays a major part.

Rendell will be faced with a budget deficit, as well as a Republican majority in Pennsylvania's legislature. The House gained four Republican seats to tally a 109-94 majority. Senate Republicans continue to outnumber Democrats by the same margin they had prior to the election — 29 to 21.

In September, Rendell outlined his plans at an agricultural issues dialogue conducted at Landis Valley Museum.

His promises for agriculture include protecting farmers from local nuisance ordinances, maintaining PDAs focus on international trade and expanding local markets, opening the Commonwealth's Machinery Equipment and Loan Fund to farmers, boosting funds for conservation easements, uncoupling property taxes from school funding, and aiming to reduce property taxes by 30 percent.

Rendell also vowed to make state government "an exclusive market for Pennsylvania commo-

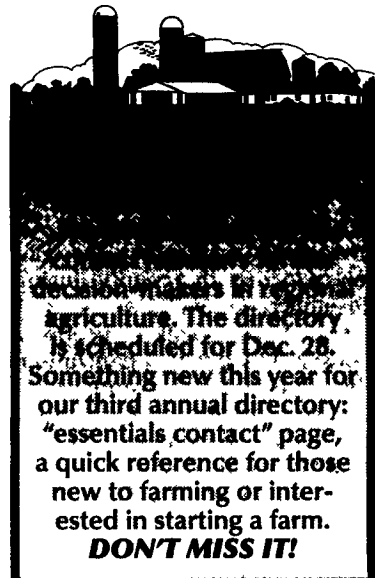
ditities by issuing an executive order requiring commonwealth agencies and institutions to buy homegrown produce first."

Rendell assistant Tom Hickey said Thursday that announcements regarding ag department reorganization are "forthcoming."

"There's a plethora of talent in the ag community across the state," he said. "Ed Rendell will be soliciting that."

Lou Moore, Penn State ag economist, said changes at the PDA will be inevitable under Rendell, but he expects the new governor will continue to support ag and agribusinesses.

"Mr. Rendell understands the importance of agriculture and of the agribusiness community to the state," Moore said. "It is expected that he will continue to support agriculture."



decision-makers in regional agriculture. The directory is scheduled for Dec. 28. Something new this year for our third annual directory: "essentials contact" page, a quick reference for those new to farming or interested in starting a farm. **DON'T MISS IT!**

Cornell's Small Farms Program Funds Farm Transfer Workshops

ITHACA, N. Y. — To aid farm families think through the many issues involved in transfer of farm business, the New York FarmLink Program and Cornell Cooperative Extension educators have organized a series of workshops around the state for farmers, family members and employees.

Over the past two years, The Cornell Small Farms Program has made a number of small grants to Cornell Cooperative Extension educators to help them develop programs that specifically target local small farm businesses and the families who live and work on these farms. The

workshops are an outgrowth of the program.

Workshop topics include planning and costs of retirement, selling the farm vs. transfer, assessing farm viability, strategies for transfer, creating the transfer team, and maintaining healthy relationships through the process.

Workshops were scheduled the first week in November at Saratoga Springs, Little Falls and Deposit. Following are the dates and locations of workshops in other areas:

- Nov. 13: Governor
- Nov. 14: Dayton

- Nov. 15: Hornell
- Nov. 22: Ithaca
- Dec. 4: Oneida County
- Dec. 5: Cooperstown (Part 1)
- Dec. 11: Oneida County
- Dec. 12: Johnstown (Part 1)
- Jan. 7, 2003: Norwich
- Jan. 21: Cooperstown (Part 2)
- Feb. 4: Johnstown (Part 2).

For more information on the workshops, contact Steve Richards at NY FarmLink, (607) 255-9854.

For more information contact R. David Smith, (607) 255-7286.

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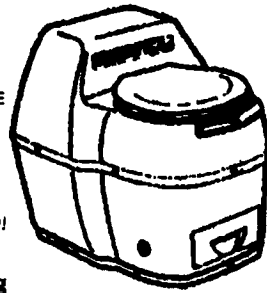
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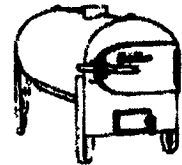
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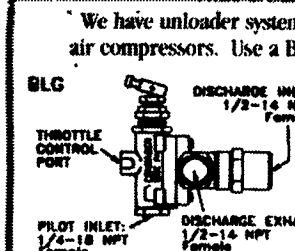
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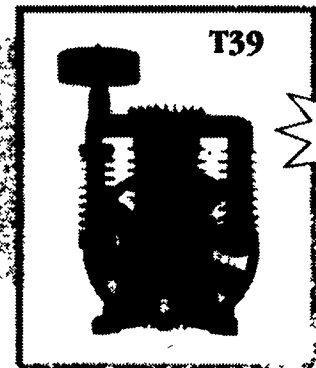
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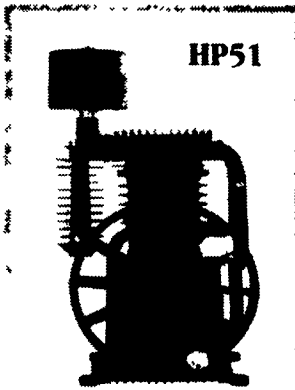
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