

# Jeff Myers Named York CED

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go ahead and fulfill their roles."

He is also looking forward to



Jeff Myers

"making sure that as a whole program we're meeting the needs of the community. I think that's the challenge. We have family and youth components, we have an agriculture component, and all those pieces help to meet the needs.

"Also, from program standpoint, I hope to make sure that we're broadly encompassing everything and do it well, to make sure that we're not spreading ourselves too thin in the process."

Another aspect of the position that Myers would like to emphasize is "making sure that as many people in the community know who we are," he said.

"I think extension has always been a challenge in that people look at us because of one aspect of what we are, and don't recognize what all aspects of what we can do in the community."

# Agriculture Secretary Announces New Crop Insurance Plan

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes announced that the Pennsylvania agriculture community will have the opportunity to purchase whole-farm revenue protection with the new Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite) insurance program.

"Pennsylvania farmers are faced with increasing market and weather-related risks and need access to a risk-management program that reflects production aspects unique to Pennsylvania," Hayes said. "AGR-Lite reflects Pennsylvania agriculture's unique diversity and has the potential of providing meaningful crop insurance protection for virtually all types of crop and animal production for the vast majority of Pennsylvania farmers."

Pennsylvania farmers for the first time will be able to cover their entire farming operation with one policy.

The plan was developed by the Department of Agriculture and approved as a new insurance product by the USDA Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

"Pennsylvania farmers asked

for a whole-farm policy that covered all their production, and we developed one," Hayes said. "This is the first time a state Department of Agriculture ever developed a new insurance product."

Under AGR-Lite, all crops and animal production can be protected with one policy and only one set of historical records. This increased simplicity, compared to other insurance programs, will make it easier for producers to understand and improve their risk-management decisions. The policy is limited to a maximum protection of \$100,000 annually. Therefore, the target market will be farms with a five-year average of \$200,000 or less of gross farm income.

As part of the recent crop insurance reform movement, the Department of Agriculture seized the opportunity to raise aware-

ness of the need for crop insurance. Before the agency's involvement, national insurance policies were not inviting for Pennsylvania's diverse agriculture.

To help guide the needed changes, Hayes formed a Pennsylvania Crop Insurance Task Force and worked with farmers, agricultural leaders, national insurance companies and the Risk Management Agency to forge a crop insurance program more reflective of Mid-Atlantic cropping systems. AGR-Lite is the result of Pennsylvania's mission to develop a crop insurance program reflective of its crop insurance needs.

AGR-Lite will be made available for producer sign-ups in mid-December with Jan. 31, 2003 as the enrollment deadline. Purchase will be made through crop insurance agents.

## Grumbine To Chair Ag Committee

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Grumbine also noted that he was elected international vice chairman of the Ag Committee for the IAFE. In 2004, Grumbine noted he will be chairperson of the Ag Committee.

Last year at the event, the Farm Show won in three categories at the convention: overall competitive ag program, overall program for commercial ag exhibitors, and nonevent agriculture program (for All-American Dairy Show).

Grumbine noted that about 5,000 fair and exposition representatives throughout the world attended the convention.

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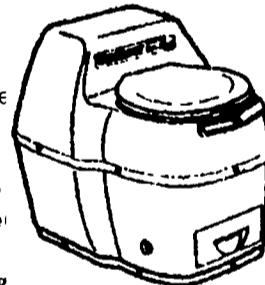
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