

Food And Farms Summit Focuses On Hunger, Health

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tems.

Dr. Michael Hamm, dean of Academic and Student Programs at Cook College, Rutgers University, received the Mid-Atlantic Innovation and Leadership Award.

Hamm's long history of work in the field of sustainable food systems and agriculture includes co-founding and directing the New Jersey Urban Ecology Pro-



Desmond Jolly, California ag economist, tells Food & Farm Summit guests that a healthy democracy needs healthy farms, families, and communities.

gram, an effort that brings together individuals from diverse backgrounds to address sustainable food systems in New Jersey. The program involves training urban youth to sell fresh produce at farmstands in their communities, and the Farm to School Project, which works to improve the connection between locally grown food and the school lunch program.

Hamm has also facilitated the New Jersey Cooperative Gleaning Network, co-directed the N.J. Food Stamp Nutrition Education Network, and founded the three-acre Cook Student Organic Farm.

In January, Hamm will begin working at Michigan State University as the C.S. Mott Distinguished Professor of Sustainable Agriculture.

Lorraine Matthews, a nutritionist in the City of Philadelphia Dept. of Health for more than 32 years, received The Future of Our Food and Farms Career Achievement Award.

Matthews, who grew up on a farm in Iowa, "has worked in almost every capacity as a nutritionist in Philadelphia," said Sandy Sherman of The Food Trust in presenting the award.

Beside working as a nutritionist, Matthews has also served on numerous research and education committees and is active in hunger advocacy and community-housing programs. In October, she received the Medallion Award from the American Dietetic Association.

Matthews said she enjoys bringing her farm experiences to the work of educating people about food and nutrition.

"There's an awful lot of people in this world who don't know where their food comes from," she said.

Matthews lectures widely on a variety of topics and has authored more than 40 articles on health care, legislative issues, health promotion, and participative education.

Sessions throughout the two-day summit addressed such topics as: food for every child; harvesting support for locally-grown food; sprawl: a threat or an opportunity for food and food security; nutrition education; successful small-farm cooperatives; new ventures for African-American farmers; keys to farmland protection; youth innovators; reconnecting agriculture, food, and community; reaching hungry people through miraculous collaborations; direct marketing; and food safety from field to fork.

The 4th Annual Future of Our Food & Farms Summit was or-

ganized by the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG) and sponsored in part by Land O'Lakes, Northeast SARE, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and the Pennsylvania Nutrition Education Program.

Other featured speakers included Dr. Marion Nestle, professor and chair of nutrition and food studies at New York University and member of the FDA's science board, and Michael Castle, U.S. representative from Delaware.

Castle affirmed the need for both non-government and government organizations to join together in eliminating hunger and educating people about nutrition.

A billion people in the world suffer from hunger and malnutrition, Castle said, with 33 million in the U.S. living in households that deal with hunger, including those "who are not just hungry but are physically suffering."

Inadequate delivery systems are a major reason not everyone has enough to eat, according to Castle. Facilitating more equit-



U.S. Rep. Michael Castle, Delaware, speaks at Food & Farms Summit.

able food distribution is "where the real solution takes place," he said.

For more information on food, farm, and hunger issues, see NESAWG's Website at www.food-farm.org.

Penn State Experts Write Forest Estate-Planning Book

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — When you are dead and gone, what will happen to that tract of forestland you worry about managing? Two experts in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences have written a

book to help you have some say. "Estate Planning Opportunities and Strategies for Private Forest Landowners," by Michael G. Jacobson, assistant professor of forest resources and extension forester, and John C. Becker, professor of agricultural economics and law, is available on the National Timber Tax Website at <http://www.timbertax.org>. The book is available only on the Website because of continuous changes to tax law.

"Failing to consider the impact of estate and inheritance taxes can disrupt effective forest man-

agement, he noted, or result in heirs abandoning forest ownership or fragmenting it in ways that squander the benefits of past management.

For more information, contact Jacobson at (814) 863-0401.

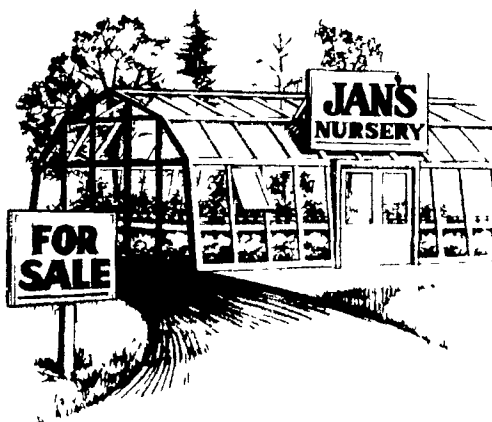
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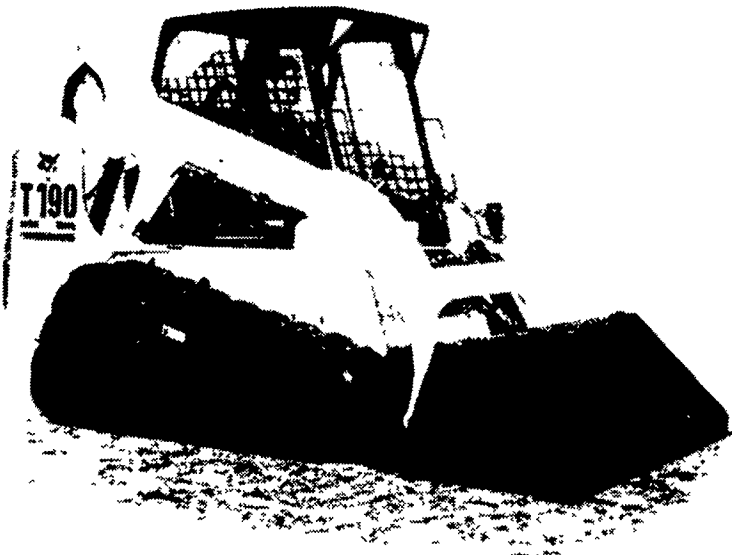
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"Printed copies likely would become outdated quickly," said Jacobson. "The Web enables us to update the information easily."

"Although there is intense discussion about repealing federal 'death taxes,' commonly known as the Federal Estate and Gift Tax," he said, "private forest landowners in the United States need to understand the role that their forest assets play in their overall estate. They also need to appreciate the impor-

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