

Farm Show 2003 Exhibitor Spotlight

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Fastline Publishing To Exhibit At Farm Show

BUCKNER, Ky. — Matt Coniglio of Fastline is happy that the Pennsylvania Farm Show is drawing the ag community back to the annual weeklong event in Harrisburg.

As a publisher of 29 magazines nationwide, including 22 picture buying guides for farm equipment, Fastline's core customers come from the field of agriculture.

"We're a resource to the farmer to help them find equipment. Our goal is to try and put buyers and sellers together," Coniglio said of the company that was founded in 1978. "We are returning to the Farm Show because of the new emphasis on agriculture."

Coniglio, Fastline's Northeast sales representative, said that the Farm Show will provide opportunities for new contacts in agribusiness circles. The company is already represented at more than 40 trade shows across the country and hosts a Website advertising more than 50,000 pieces of farm equipment online.

"We're excited that the Farm Show is putting the emphasis back on farmers and reaching out to the ag community again," Coniglio said.

Coniglio and other company representatives will be on hand at Fastline's display each day of the upcoming Farm Show, set for Jan 11-18.

Cattlemen Finalizing Contracts For BSE Research McDonald's Grant Helps Propel Process

DENVER, Colol — Contracts are being finalized that will help bring the subject of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) under clearer focus.

The research is being funded through \$1.1 million in beef checkoff funds and a \$500,000 grant from McDonald's Corporation.

The project is being coordinated for the Cattlemen's Beef Board and state beef councils by the National Cattlemen's Beef

Association (NCBA) Research and Knowledge Management staff. The Beef Board oversees the \$1-per-head beef checkoff.

Members of the BSE Scientific Working Group reviewed 17 proposals received from research organizations across the U.S. These proposals were generated through a "request for proposal" process that identified the specific goals the Working Group wanted to accomplish.

The group's five topic areas consisted of basic research, diag-

Lamb Board Meets, Elects Officers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — USDA has announced the officers elected to the Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Board. The election took place at the board's inaugural meeting Nov. 6-7.

The board met to discuss, develop, and implement the provisions of the Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order. Under the order, which became effective in April, the board will conduct a coordinated program of promotion, research, and information to maintain and expand markets for lamb and lamb products.

The board also approved of a \$2.6 million budget and established a number of program committees.

At the inaugural meeting, the board elected the following officers: chairman - Thomas A. Kourlis of Englewood, Colo.; vice chairman - William R. Brennan of Sioux Falls, S.D.; treasurer - W. David Winters of Del Rio, Texas; secretary - Margaret C. Magruder of Clatskanie, Ore.

The board is comprised of 13 members, including six producer representatives, three feeder representatives, three first handler representatives, and one seedstock producer representative.

To finance the activities of the program, domestic lamb producers, feeders, seedstock producers, and exporters pay one-half cent (\$.005) per pound of live lambs

sold. In addition, first handlers, primarily packers, are assessed 30 cents per head of lambs purchased by the first handler for slaughter. As of July 1, the program began assessing producers, feeders, seedstock producers, and exporters for each lamb, ewe, and ram sold. Importers of lamb are not assessed.

Board activities are monitored by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. For more information, contact Kenneth Payne, AMS Livestock and Seed Marketing Programs Branch Chief, USDA Stop 0251, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 2025-0251; phone (202) 720-1115.

Forms are also available at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mpb/rp-lamb.htm>.

More Than \$4.3 Million Will Support Watershed Restoration Projects

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary David E. Hess recently announced more than \$4.3 million to fund watershed restoration projects, including farmland conservation projects, under the Growing Greener Program.

"Growing Greener represents the next generation of environ-

mental protection programs, supporting community- and watershed-based projects that build partnerships to accomplish their goals," Secretary Hess said. "So far this year, more than \$33.7 million has been awarded to support watershed restoration projects, which was matched by another \$66.7 million from local partners."

A \$900,000 Growing Greener grant is being awarded to the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) to support the installation of conservation practices on farms through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

"The PACD is pleased to be able to provide Growing Greener funds on behalf of DEP to farmers participating in the CREP program," said Susan Fox, Executive Director of the PACD. "This grant will assist farmers to implement conservation best-

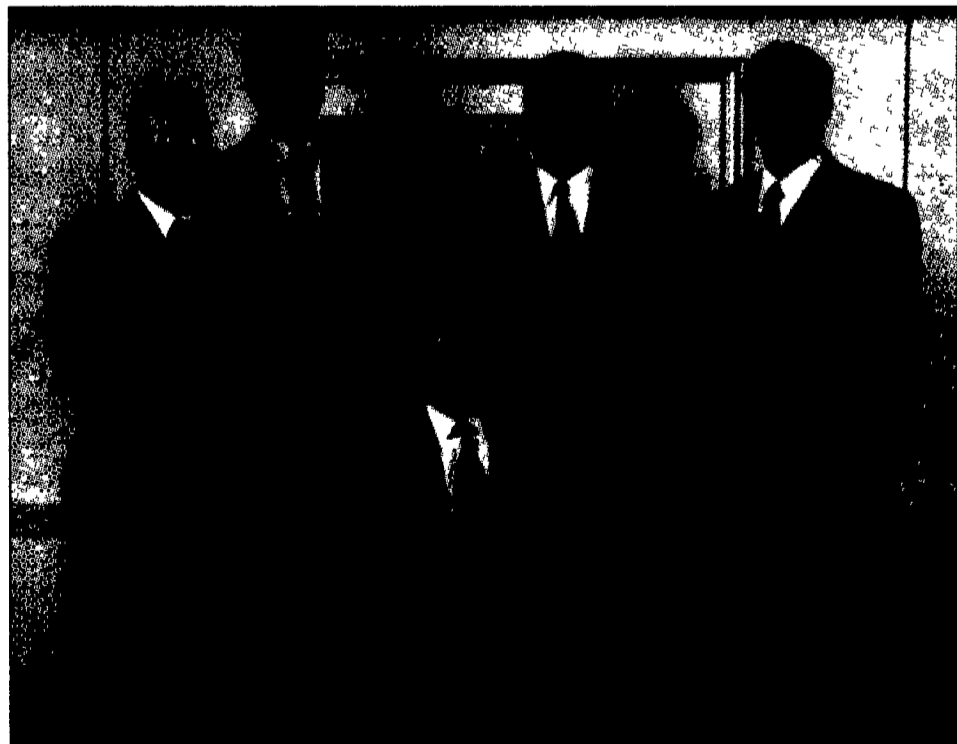
management practices on their farms that will improve water quality and promote wildlife habitat."

CREP is a federal program where the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) partners with states to reduce sediment or nutrient runoff from agricultural land. The USDA provides 50 percent of the funds necessary to install conservation measures, such as filter strips, permanent vegetative cover or riparian buffers.

"With help from Growing Greener, Pennsylvania farmers are able to do much more to protect our watersheds from the effects of excessive nutrient and sediment loading due to agricultural runoff," Secretary Hess said. "These funds will help Pennsylvania farmers in 20 counties within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to protect the bay."

This year the Growing Greener Program has provided a total of \$2.2 million to support the CREP Program.

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First Union Pennsylvania/Delaware Agri-Finance Relationship Management Team

(Seated). Darwin Boyd - SVP, Director of Agri-Finance
(Standing left to right) Blaine Fessler - VP, Business Banking Relationship Mgr;
Clay Thomson - VP, Commercial Banking Senior Relationship Mgr,
Roger Rohrer - VP, Business Banking Senior Relationship Mgr,
Ted Bowers - VP, Business Banking Relationship Mgr
Agri-Finance Support Team (not pictured):
Business Banking Senior Sales Associates:
Ann Marie Barr, Lancaster; Jill Bronder, Lancaster; Sandra Fellers, Hanover,
Linda Hildebrand, Reading, and Donna Schreiner, Lancaster.
Commercial Senior Sales Associate: Patricia Coomes, Lancaster.

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