

Woodland News

PRIVATE FORESTS UNITE EFFORTS

Michael T. Wolf
Forest Resource Agent

One of the best kept secrets in the forestry community in South-west Pennsylvania is the existence of three associations of forest landowners. The Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners Association (SWPWO), Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies (WOSA), and Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association (WWIA) are organizations that provide opportunities to

members and the public to learn about and discuss many issues that concern private forests in the state.

They organize woodlot tours, forest industry tours, educational conferences, field trips, evening programs and much more. They also provide a great communications network for local landowners to discuss forestry professionals, timber sales, forest management practices, hunting and fishing opportunities, and many other issues that affect our Pennsylvania forests. In addition, they can be an organized voice for forest landowner's interests.

In my nine county region, there are currently only two counties that are active centers for such forest landowner groups. Bedford County is the center for WOSA's activity, and Westmoreland County for WWIA. Residents from other counties can participate in the associations, but travel and distance are factors in limiting participation. These associations are strong advocates in forestry education, proper resource management, wise-use consumption, resource conservation, and science-based decision making on our private forests. Also, they seem to be very passionate about issues that are important to the sustainability of our precious hardwood resource. Each group recognizes the multiple benefits of healthy forests, such as timber production, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and recreation.

Although these private forest interest groups are strong in their locales, my hope is that we can develop similar groups in each of

my counties of responsibility. I hope that within the next few years, Cambria, Somerset, Blair, Indiana, Fulton, Fayette, and Huntingdon counties will also possess strong, active and effective private forest interest groups. The benefit to our forest resources would be tremendous.

If you would be interested in participating in one of these associations, or if you would like to join hands with other interested parties in your county to initiate a new group, please call Mike Wolf for details at the Penn State Cooperative Extension, (814) 472-7986. Penn State encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodations or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Cambria Extension at (814) 472-7986 in advance of your participant or visit.

Herefords Host Second National Show

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — In the second of the five National Hereford Shows, 325 head in 44 classes were shown to judge Jack Ward, LaGrange, Ind., at NAILE, Nov. 18, in Louisville, Ky.

Grand and fall calf champion bull: Boyd Beef Cattle, Mays Lick, Ky., Genex Cooperative Inc., Shawano, Wis., Mullinix Brothers, Woodbine, Md., and C-G Farms, Clinton, Okla.

Champion junior yearling bull: Cecil Jordan and Son, Dresden, Ohio, Detweiler Land and Cattle Co., Salesville, Ohio, and Renner Polled Herefords, Bens Run, W. Va.

Champion senior bull: NS Polled Herefords, Mason, Ohio

Champion spring calf heifer: Detweiler Land and Cattle Co., and LaGrand Herefords

Reserve spring calf champion heifer: Ralph Ullman and Son, Graysville, Ohio

NCBA, Ag Groups Urge Caution On Australian FTA

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and a coalition of agriculture groups have sent a letter to U.S. Trade Ambassador Robert Zoellick urging caution as the U.S. negotiates a free trade agreement (FTA) with Australia.

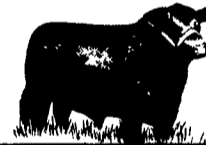
The letter, signed by five ag groups including NCBA and the National Farmer's Union, states, "we have strong reservations about this course of action, and ask you to proceed with caution."

The correspondence is the latest in a long line of NCBA communications with Zoellick and U.S. trade officials addressing an FTA with Australia, and suggesting that more efforts be focused on the current World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations.

U.S. cattlemen maintain that U.S.-Australian agricultural trade is highly unbalanced in favor of Australia, and a bi-lateral FTA will worsen the situation.

"We see no net benefit for our industries in an FTA with Australia. We continue to believe that the current WTO negotiations provide the best strategy for reducing trade barriers and opening up markets to U.S. agricultural products," the letter says.

The letter calls for bilateral negotiations to be kept on a parallel track with the multilateral negotiations at the WTO. But the groups warn that WTO negotiations must continue. "If the WTO negotiations falter and Australia FTA negotiations are not postponed, we will have no choice but to break with the rest of agriculture and work to defeat the final U.S.-Australia agreement once it is sent to Congress for an up or down vote."



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