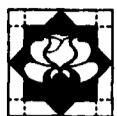


Agriculture Insights

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THE CHAMBER'S 2003 GOALS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

The Lancaster Chamber is committed to meeting the needs and providing services for the diverse business community in Lancaster County. But as the business climate, legislation, workforce, and many other business issues change, so must the Chamber stay on top of these evolving influences while providing current effective programs and services to support the business community. The Chamber's board of directors looked at the key business issues in Lancaster County and determined the focus for The Chamber in 2003.

I recently had the opportunity to ask the Chamber's 2003 Board Chairman Philip Wenger, president of Isaac's Deli, Inc., about his vision as it relates to the Chamber's goals and the agricultural industry.

"The Chamber's priorities in 2003 call for a clear focus on better planning for a bright economic future and more intermunicipal and regional thinking to break down the barriers to growth," Wenger commented. "These priorities fit well with the agriculture industry, because the unfair rules and regulations imposed on our farmers and ag-businesses get in the way of successful business growth. The Lancaster Chamber is a place where ag businesses can combine their voices with manufacturers and retail to be certain that our local, state and federal government does a better job of supporting the engine which not only employs many people, but feeds them as well. The Chamber recognizes the importance of the ag industry and wants to partner with their voices to be certain our 2003 priorities around economic development and more inter-municipal and regional thinking are focused on issues important to farmers and farm businesses."

When asked how the agriculture community can become more involved with the Chamber, Wenger suggested, "We are asking all farms and ag businesses, both large and small, to join the Chamber in speaking out when our community fails to recognize the importance of creating a climate where agribusiness can grow and thrive. The agriculture community needs to maintain a grass-roots communication network and help the Chamber speak out about issues important to them."

The Lancaster Chamber's Agriculture Committee provides the leadership to the Chamber's Agricultural Services Program. Chairperson for this year is Sonia Wasco, president of Grant Heilman Photography.

When asked about the Agriculture Committee's strengths and direction for 2003, Wasco commented, "The Agriculture Committee has members from all segments of the agriculture community in Lancaster County. This is our greatest strength as the committee bridges the gap between the agriculture community and the Chamber. We consistently take proactive steps to address the concerns of our members by hosting events that address the issues that impact the economic future of the agriculture community and by bringing together municipal and regional representatives with agriculture industry representatives for open discussions on critical issues impacting our future growth. There is no

better forum for the business of agriculture to come together and be heard than through the Chamber."

To ensure a viable business community and vibrant overall community, the Chamber recognizes the role it must play in supporting all sectors of industry, including agriculture. To meet these diverse needs, the Chamber concentrates its efforts in three areas - member services, advocacy, and community leadership. From within these goals there are three priority areas - economic development, downtown revitalization, and building cooperation with local governments and regional efforts.

Next month's Agriculture Insights column will focus on the Agriculture Committee's goals and programs and how they coincide with The Chamber's 2003 program of action.

The Chamber is offering an excellent upcoming educational program for farmers and agribusinesses. The Farm Business Symposium will be on Feb. 11 at Willow Valley Resort from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The program includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and Resource Guide, which highlights all the programs covered during the day. Cost for the Farm Business Symposium is \$75 for Chamber members and \$100 for nonmembers. Contact

Brent Landis for additional information at (717) 397-3531 x 134 or blandis@lcci.com.

Temple Grandin To Speak At Pork Expo

(Continued from Page A1)

will be a panel discussion from industry and University of Pennsylvania representatives. Tom Moyer from Hatfield Quality Meats will outline the financial impact of improper swine handling.

Penn State ag economics professor Lou Moore will deliver his highly popular market outlook. This year's program will include

about 20 exhibits and educational seminars for producers. The expo will once again sponsor a "Pork Bowl" for competing FFA and 4-H members.

The conference begins at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude at 5 p.m. Space for the conference is limited. To register, please contact Amy Bradford of Penn Ag Industries at abradford+Apennag.com.

President Bush Creates Faith-Based And Community Initiatives Center

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Bush signed an Executive Order Dec. 12 creating a Faith-Based and Community Initiative Center within USDA.

The USDA works in many capacities to provide programs, grants, and other services that help build stronger communities through rural economic development and investment, food and nutrition programs, as well as food aid. This decision will provide USDA the opportunity to better coordinate delivery mechanisms and work more closely

with faith-based community organizations.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, who traveled with the President to Philadelphia for the announcement applauded the decision saying, "Our objective is to provide these types of programs to help families and children, improve our neighborhoods, and build stronger communities. Through the President's leadership, we will work with renewed commitment and vigor to achieve results."

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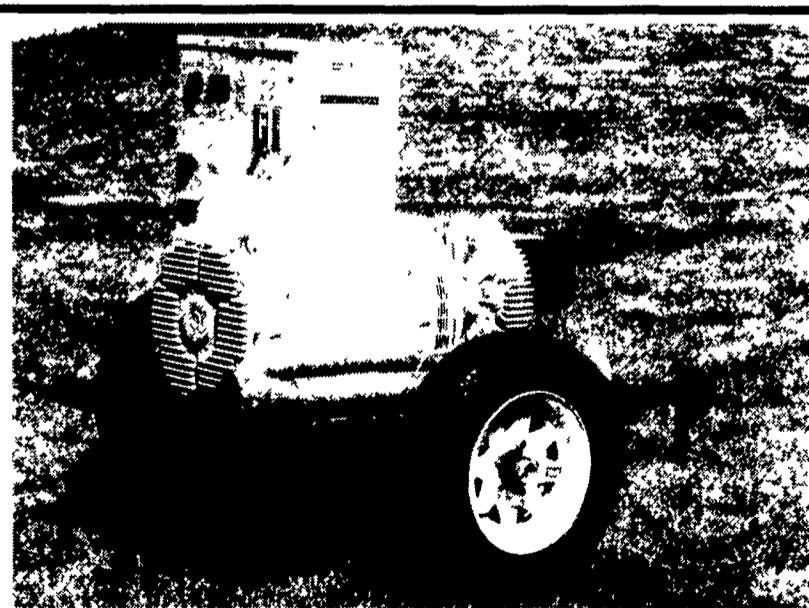
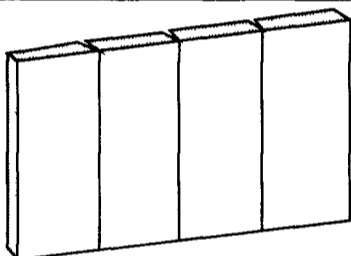
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The Saratoga: 6 Stall Barn 30'x36'x10'

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