

Farm Bureau, Ronald McDonald Houses Celebrate Ag's Bounty

CAMP HILL (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania Farm Bureau members delivered collections of food to Pennsylvania's five Ronald McDonald Houses Feb. 6 in celebration of "Food Check-out Day," the date when the average American has earned enough income to pay for an entire year's food supply.

The event has produced more than \$200,000 worth of food and other contributions for Ronald McDonald Houses during the past four years.

"Pennsylvania has the largest rural population of any state in the nation, which makes it vital to have places like this for rural families to stay while they are in a city receiving medical treatment for their children," said Bill Grattan, executive director of the Pittsburgh Ronald McDonald House.

"Ronald McDonald Houses nurture the families of seriously ill children receiving medical treatment by providing them with a home-away-from-home. Our farm families nourish us all by providing the world's safest and most economical supply of food.

"Many rural families benefit from the care and comfort of a Ronald McDonald House when they travel far from home for the medical care of a child. Our annual 'Food Check-Out Day' is a perfect time and way to say thank you," said Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Guy F. Donaldson.

"Because of the efficiency of our farm families, 98 percent of Pennsylvanians can devote their lives and careers to something other than food production. The remarkable productivity of agriculture requires large amounts of capital, science, new technology, and risk," explained the statewide leader.

The Ronald McDonald Houses involved with the Farm Bureau effort are located in Danville, Hershey, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Scranton.

"Food Check-Out Day" was launched to recognize the productivity of America's farmers and ranchers. By Food Check Out Day occurring on February 6, it will take only 37 days for the average American family to pay for its annual food supply for the year. In contrast, the same family has to work until late April to pay their tax bill.

Pennsylvania's farmers are among the nation's most productive, generating more than \$4 billion in cash receipts during 2002. The Commonwealth ranks among the top five states in the production of milk, eggs, ice cream, butter, cheese, peaches, apples, pears, grapes, tomatoes, pumpkins, maple syrup and Christmas Trees, and leads nationally in the production of mushrooms. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is a voluntary organization representing over 29,000 farm and rural families in 54 county units. It is part of the nation's largest general farm organization, the 5.5 million member American Farm Bureau Federation.



In celebration of Food Check-out Day, Bill Grattan, executive director of the Pittsburgh Ronald McDonald House, and Ronald McDonald accept donations from Pennsylvania Farm Bureau spokesperson Christine Greig, Linesville, Crawford County.

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Conference Helps Farm Women Balance Their Lives

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio — Sometimes it seems like there is no possible way of balancing life on the farm, family and the daily household chores. The Women in Agriculture Conference has been

helping farm women find that balance for 10 years.

This year, the conference committee is planning a special celebration for the 10th anniversary on March 14 at Nazareth Hall in Grand Rapids, Ohio from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Marlene von Stein,

2002-2003 Ohio FFA Association president, will open the 2003 Women in Agriculture Conference.

The keynote speaker for this year's conference is Marla Cilley, who is known to thousands as the FLYlady. Cilley is helping women to invite those unexpected guests into the house and break that never-ending cycle of housework. Cilley has appeared on NBC's Today Show and has done numerous interviews for the radio stations and publications, such as USA Today and Women's Day magazine.

ment Part, Easy Entertaining, Alternative Medicine and many more.

Early bird registration for the conference is \$40 if postmarked before Feb. 24. Registration postmarked after the deadline is \$50.

"The Women in Agriculture program began in 1993, as a need to come together to learn about their way of life. At the first conference, there were approximately 40 women in attendance. Today the educational event has grown to over 175 participants from around northwestern Ohio and southern Michigan," said Doris Herringshaw, family and consumer sciences agent for Ohio State University Extension in Wood County and Women in Agriculture committee chair.

For more information on the Women in Agriculture conference, contact the OSU Extension office of Wood County at (419) 354-9050 or the Agricultural Business Enhancement Center at (877) 767-5546.

The program is sponsored by the Women in Agriculture committee of the Ohio State University Extension Agricultural Business Enhancement Center.

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Besides being inspired by Cilley, the participants will be able to attend breakout sessions. These sessions include: 2002 Farm Bill, Knowing the Right Farm Equip-

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