

LOL: Culture Of Accountability Required

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Setting the tone for the 82nd Land O'Lakes Annual Meeting, Board Chairman Jim Fife reflected on the past, described the current climate of agribusiness, and addressed Land O'Lakes' "culture of accountability."

"Let me tell you why our culture of accountability will sustain us," Fife said, building on the meeting's "People, Principles, Performance" theme. "The management is accountable to the board, the board is accountable to the membership, and the membership is accountable to be involved in its cooperative."

Fife explained management is accountable to the board, which carefully monitors business performance, direction and focus, and works with

management to develop critical strategies for the system as a whole. The board is accountable to members, as their elected representatives, to preserve, protect, and grow member equity in the cooperative.

"We are your elected representatives," Fife said. "We represent you. You ultimately control the direction of your co-op. And that is why you are accountable to Land O'Lakes to be involved."

Fife said cooperative boards often bring unique insight to their responsibilities.

"The Land O'Lakes Board of Directors is different than other boards because we are a reflection of you, the members," Fife said. "Unlike directors at other companies, who oftentimes are not experts, nor even involved in the industries they serve, your directors are

active participants in our industry. Your board understands agriculture and agribusiness.

"Our system of governance, and tiers of accountability, also set us apart from those business-as-usual corporations. It is member involvement that ultimately sets the direction, and makes cooperatives the grassroots, democratic organizations that they are," Fife said.

The Land O'Lakes Board is focused on the future of its cooperative system and in doing what it takes to achieve solid business performance such as managing its business portfolio deciding on appropriate strategic growth opportunities, and maintaining a strong commitment to Land O'Lakes cooperative principles and mission, Fife said.

SRBC Sets Public Meeting On Water Budget Study For Northern Lancaster County

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) has notified northern Lancaster County community officials, citizen groups, and others of the first public meeting on the development of a water budget and resource protection plan for the area. The purpose of the water budget study is to determine if the area's water supplies are adequate to meet current and projected water demands. The public meeting will take place March 27 at the Ephrata Public Library, Ephrata. To accommodate schedules, two identical sessions are being offered on March 27—an afternoon session from 12:45 to 3 p.m. and an evening session from 5:45 to 8 p.m. Interested parties are to RSVP by March 12 to SRBC.

The water budget study and resource protection plan, which is being funded largely by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Growing Greener Program, is a partnership effort of SRBC, DEP, Lancaster County Conservation District, and the Delaware River Basin Commission. The study area covers six watersheds in northern Lancaster County: Cocalico Creek, Indian Run, Middle Creek, Hammer Creek, Lititz Run, and Chiques Creek. The following townships and boroughs are located entirely or in portions of the six watersheds: Akron, Clay, East Cocalico, Denver, Elizabeth, Ephrata, Lititz, Manheim, Penn, Rapho, Warwick, and West Cocalico.

SRBC Executive Director Paul Swartz said that a water budget study is essentially like assessing a financial account, where you determine how much water is being deposited in an area and how much is

being withdrawn.

"By calculating the area's surface- and ground-water sources and quantities and comparing that to the storage capacity and the water uses, we will be able to determine if the water supplies for this northern Lancaster County area are adequate to meet the demands," said Swartz. "As in financial accounting, water budgeting is an important first step that allows for the planning and management of water resources in a sustainable manner."

Swartz said, "The study partners are conducting this initial public meeting to explain the

water budget study and discuss issues concerning water use, supply, and impacts on ground-water supplies."

We also will explain the purposes and benefits of a resource protection plan, as well as seek volunteers who may want to serve on a local advisory committee to help guide the water budget and resource protection plan processes," said Swartz. "At the end of this water budget study and resource protection plan, local government officials will have the information necessary to properly plan for the area's growth consistent with available water resources."

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Houser, Troutman Honored For Holstein Member Solicitation

BETHLEHEM (Northampton Co.) — The Pennsylvania Holstein Association recognized membership solicitors at their awards program at their recent annual convention here.

While the association honored efforts of all membership solicitors around

the state special recognition went to James Houser, Centre County, and Connie Troutman, Berks County, for their outstanding work in soliciting members.

Holstein breeders and enthusiasts are reminded that member applications are still being accepted for 2003.

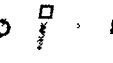
Delaware Valley College Open House March 22

DOYLESTOWN (Bucks Co.) — Delaware Valley College will host an open house for high school students on Saturday, March 22 from 10:15 a.m.-2 p.m. in the College's Student Center, located on Route 202.

At the open house, participants will be able to discuss career possibilities with department chairpersons, explore financial aid opportunities, and receive information regarding counseling and tutoring services for students. Current DelVal students

Correction

MIDDLETOWN (Dauphin Co.) — In the February 15 issue, the Beef Quality Assurance sessions at the Adams County extension office was incorrectly listed. The date for the recertification session is March 13 at 6 pm and classroom session at 7pm.


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