

Life
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Five Sections

Saturday, March 8, 2003

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Pa. Ag Secretary Calls Rendell Budget Workable

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff
and
ANDY ANDREWS
Editor

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell's proposed ag budget reductions for 2003-2004 will keep a workable amount of funds available for farm programs until the economy recovers, according to Dennis Wolff, acting Pennsylvania secretary of agriculture.

Rendell's proposal cuts the state's total ag budget to \$70.7 million, compared to last year's level of \$76.1 million.

A large part of the decrease comes from taking about \$3 million for plum pox indemnifica-

tion costs out of this year's budget because the plum pox outbreak is largely under control, Wolff said.

The Pennsylvania Fair Fund will have \$1 million less in the till for capital improvements, according to the Rendell's proposal, and the general operating budget for the ag department would be cut by \$250,000.

Under the budget proposal, many programs are set to receive the same level of funding as they did last year, Wolff said. These include longstanding events such as 4-H state club shows, the All-American Dairy Show, and the Keystone International Livestock

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Council Of Farm Organizations Hosts Meeting, Reception

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Legislators and members of the agriculture industry gathered at the capitol building this week to attend an annual meeting and roundtable discussion. The event also included an evening "Taste Pennsylvania Reception" to showcase Pennsylvania agricultural products.

The Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations (SCOFO) sponsored the annual event.

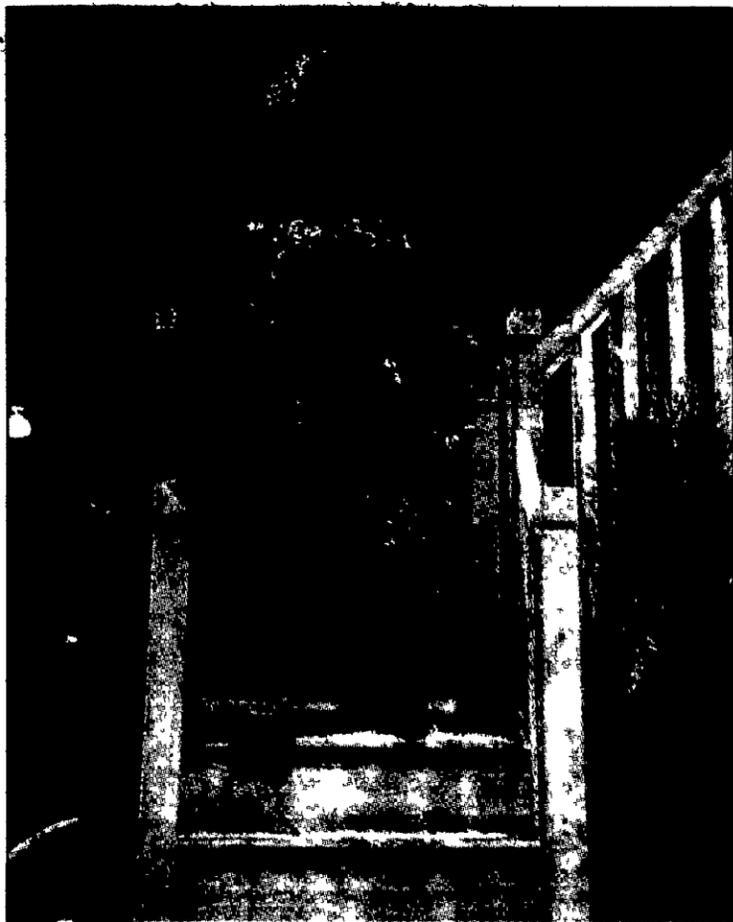
At the luncheon sixty-five attendees represented some of the more than 60 agricultural and agriculture-related organizations that are members of the council.

Officials expected attendance at the reception to be approximately 135.

During Monday's meeting, council members elected new officers.

Susan Fox, executive director at the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. for

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See this life-size topiary senorita, fantastic garden displays, and much more at the world-famous Philadelphia Flower Show, 12th and Arch streets, Philadelphia. The indoor 33-acre show remains open today and tomorrow. Turn to page B56 for a preview of show photos and details about tickets and hours. Photo by Lou Ann Good, food and family features editor.

Grower & Marketer

Lancaster Farming • Section E • Saturday, March 8, 2003

Lancaster Farming Introduces A New Component Of Grower & Marketer

AQUA Country

Official Member Of The Pennsylvania Aquaculture Association

The Stacks' Paradise Trout Hatchery Still Going Strong After 100 Years

DEANNA CUMER
Carbon Co. Correspondent
CRFSCO (Monroe Co.) — Those that operate a successful family farming operation can be justifiably proud of their accomplishments. So is the case for retired owner, George Stack, and his daughter, manager Beth Martin of Paradise Trout Hatchery and Preserve.

What comes to mind for most when thinking of a family farm is the traditional picturesque barn and outbuildings with contoured fields of alternating crops or the livestock operation with animals peacefully grazing in green pastures. In actuality a fish hatchery such as Paradise is no different than a crop or livestock farm. The serene look of buildings, raceways, and ponds among the towering pines

with trout peacefully swimming within view of visitors easily compared to those tranquil scenes of livestock grazing on the hillside. Managing the hatchery on 120 acres that has been in business for over 100 years, Martin must be concerned with nutrition, reproduction, growth rate, sanitation, predator control, marketing, and unfortunately government



Paradise Trout Hatchery, the first licensed fish hatchery in Pennsylvania, actually opened for business in 1902. The family operation has been owned and operated by the Stack family for more than 75 years.

We introduce a brand-new component of the Lancaster Farming Grower & Marketer section this issue. It's called Aqua Country. Pages include reports on trout hatcheries in Monroe County, calendar events, a suppliers listing, and advertising from major aquacultural suppliers.

PFGC Recognizes Forage, Grassland Innovators

Group Honors Memory Of Educator Bill Stout

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — David Fink knows that hay has been — and still is — a cornerstone of civilization.

Fink received this year's Special Award from the Pennsylv-

nia Forage and Grassland Council (PFGC), presented at its annual conference here this week.

The PFGC honored Fink for his support of the organization over the years, and for his innovative achievements in growing, processing, and marketing hay.

Fink operates Heidel Hollow Farms near Germansville, Lehigh County, with the help of his wife Sonia and sons Travis and Mike. They market 5,000 tons of hay per year, about 75 percent of it harvested from 900 acres of timo-

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The PFGC honors outstanding contributors to Pennsylvania's forage and grassland industry. Accepting awards Wednesday evening are, from left, Kathy Soder, for the late Dr. William Stout, research/education; David and Sonia Fink, Special Award; and Jim Cropper, conservation. Photo by Dave Lefever