

Council Of Farm Organizations Hosts Meeting, Discussion, Reception

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over six years, was elected president.

"As the number one industry in Pennsylvania, agriculture plays an integral role in Pennsylvania's economy. SCOFO represents over 60 agricultural organizations that contribute to the success and prominence of this organization.

"I look forward to working with representatives from these organizations to continue to promote agriculture in Pennsylvania," said Fox.

Other officers elected include Jeff Fry, Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, vice president, and Dennis Schad, Land O'Lakes, Inc., secretary/treasurer.

The officers may serve up to two years in these leadership positions.

The day also included an evening reception for members of the General Assembly, hosted by the state council. The event featured food produced in the commonwealth and provided an opportunity for both legislators and council members to discuss agricultural issues.

During the luncheon Rep. Ray Bunt (R-147), chairman of the House Agriculture and Rural Af-



Outgoing president of the Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations, Curtis Kratz, right, accepts a commendation from PDA presented by Dennis Wolff, agriculture secretary designee.

fairs Committee, awarded outgoing council president Curtis Kratz a citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Sen. Mike Waugh (R-28), chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, also gave Kratz a citation

from the Pennsylvania Senate. Besides serving as president, Kratz is active in numerous other agricultural organizations and is a township supervisor.

Kratz, a self-described family- and spiritual man, said that "I want to do what I can to help support agriculture so that we can have food for our children and grandchildren," he said, urging council members to "talk together, work together, and build relationships."

Bunt gave an update on the House ag committee, which is working on legislation that pertains to farmland preservation funding and strengthening the link between retiring farmers and those interested in beginning farming. The committee also takes an interest in inheritance taxes, Clean and Green, and right-to-farm laws.

Waugh briefly discussed Wolff's imminent confirmation hearing, the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board's pooling regulations, and the importance of agriculture education. "We have a big role to play in getting the message out and helping people understand" the changing face of agriculture, he said.

Agriculture Secretary Designee Dennis Wolff described an agen-

da which included economic development, such as the small business first program, the machinery and equipment loan program, the next generation farmer program, crop insurance program, and farmland preservation program.

"We intend to continue to use these programs in the next four years and look forward to work-

ing with you," said Wolff.

Every year, council members select a legislative agenda to pursue. During the meetings members may vote on resolutions pertaining to agricultural issues.

During the roundtable discussion following the meeting, Dr. Helen Aceto, Ph.D., VMD, Uni-

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Dennis Wolff, agriculture secretary designee, stands with incoming council president Susan Fox, executive director of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc.

Board Announces February Class I Price

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Milk Marketing Board (MMB) announced the prices to be paid to Pennsylvania dairy farmers for February class I milk (beverage) as an average of \$14.03 in the western areas of the commonwealth, and an average of \$14.52 in the central and eastern areas of the commonwealth.

These prices include the over-order premium of \$1.40 per one hundred pounds of milk.

Farmers whose milk production is pooled under a federal order will receive a marketwide blend price based upon the value of all classes of milk. However, the blend price received will vary as the component composition of a farmer's milk differs from the established benchmarks of 3.5 percent butterfat, 2.99 percent protein, and 5.69 percent other solids.

Since 1988, the MMB has mandated over-order premiums on Class I milk because of adverse conditions affecting the Pennsylvania dairy farmer. Chairwoman Beverly R. Minor noted that since the inception of the MMB's over-order premium, Pennsylvania dairy farmers have received more than \$286 million in additional income.


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