

PDA Launches Farm Safety Initiative At FFA Breakfast

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Agriculture Secretary Designee Dennis C. Wolff announced the creation of a new Farm Safety Education program at the Pennsylvania FFA Annual Legislative Breakfast, Tuesday.

"Pennsylvania is dedicated to continuing its mission to promote safety around farms," said Secretary Wolff. "One farm accident is one accident too many. We need to always 'begin safe, end safe,' around the farm and farm equipment. The Department of Agriculture is pleased to be partnering with the Pennsylvania FFA in launching its new Farm Safety Demonstration Program."

Through this new initiative, FFA Chapters across the Commonwealth are encouraged to develop interactive demonstrations to be used at county fairs, malls, schools, and other venues to educate the public about the value of farm safety.

Interested FFA Chapters can receive up to \$1,000 for the development and construction of each demonstration project, made possible by the Curriculum and Instructional Development Grant Program.

Project proposals will be due in the Fall of 2003 and be awarded in the beginning of 2004 for the 2004 county and community fair season.

In recognition of FFA Chapter accomplishments in Farm Safety for 2002-03, Secretary Wolff awarded certificates of commendation to the chapter winners in the 2002 Fair Farm Safety Demonstration Contest, the 2003 Farm Show Safety Contest, and the 2003 Farm Safety Quiz Bowl-FFA Division.

The winners were:

2002 Fair Farm Safety Demonstrations: Manheim FFA, Manheim Central High School, Lancaster County; Tyrone Area FFA, Tyrone Area School District, Blair County; West Snyder FFA, Mid-West School District, Snyder County; Central Columbia FFA, Central Columbia School District, Columbia County; Spud Growers FFA, Coudersport High School, Potter County; Headwaters FFA, Northern Potter High School, Potter County; Upper Dauphin FFA, Upper Dauphin School District, Dauphin County; and Little Lions FFA, State College School District, Centre County.

2003 Farm Show Farm Safety Demonstrations: 1. Blackhawk High School, Beaver County, Demonstration "Log Splitters for Dummies"; and 2. Mifflinburg High School, Union County, Demonstration "Lawn Mower Safety."



Members of the Eastern York FFA Chapter met with to thank this year's SLLC sponsor Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania. Representing Columbia Gas in center back George Stark and Rob Boulware Also pictured on far right is Rep. Keith Gillespie from the 47th district.

2002-03 Farm Safety Quiz Bowl FFA Division: 1. Mifflinburg FFA, Mifflinburg High School, Union County; 2. West Snyder FFA, Mid-West School District, Snyder County; 3. Selinsgrove FFA, Selinsgrove Area High School, Snyder County; and 4. Manheim FFA, Manheim Central School District, Lancaster County.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA), through its Bureau of Plant Industry, continues to promote farm safety and work to reduce the number of farm related accidents and deaths in Pennsylvania. It is the only state agency in the nation to have a full-time farm safety specialist on staff.

While encouraging promotion of farm safety, the PDA oversees several Farm Safety and Occupational Health programs. The Small Grant Program provides funding to organizations to host and present Farm Safety Programs. Most recently, two FFA Chapters, six County Extension programs, four county Farm Bureaus, and ten fire, ambulance, rescue, and health organizations received up to \$2,500 each for farm safety promotion.

The new Curriculum and Instructional Development Program is raising the bar of awareness on farm safety and rescue for safety and rescue personnel. The department is committed to the development of farm safety

programs across Pennsylvania and has supported The Pennsylvania State University's Pennsylvania Ag Rescue Program.

The Tuition Assistance Program encourages paramedics, medical personnel, and members of the agriculture community to attend training programs by defraying some of the training costs.

The PDA hosts Farm Safety Programs at Ag Progress Days, Farm City Day, and the PA Farm Show.

Secretary Wolff also noted that the PDA is the first agriculture department in the nation to participate in the Farm Safety 4 Just



Agriculture Secretary Designee Dennis C. Wolff addressed the conference at the Pennsylvania FFA Legislative Breakfast on Tuesday Morning.

Kids Program. Teaching farm safety to children is a commitment by the Department as a member of this program.

Teaching children the dangers of not following the rules when using farm tractors or equipment helps to ensure that Pennsylvania's children will be able to safely reap the joys of helping their family around the farm. PDA is committed to assisting Pennsylvania's 59,000 farm families to think "Safety First." For more information about the department's Farm Safety Programs, contact the PDA's Bureau of Plant Industry at (717) 772-5206.



State Officer Team and FFA team leaders organized and facilitated this year's legislative conference. This year's team leaders were, from left, front row, Isaac Bucher, Amy Kaucher, Ryan Healy, Hannah Etzler, Andrew Herr, Eric Chamberlin, middle row, Emily Grove; Courtney Miller; Mark Fulton; Mary Strausbaugh; Julie Flinchbaugh, back row, Dave Bittner; Andy Alwine; Tim Lesh; Tony Seymore; Jon Lauver.



2002-03 State Officer Team at State Leadership Conference, front row, from left, Emily Grove; Courtney Miller; Mark Fulton; Mary Strausbaugh; Julie Flinchbaugh. Back row, from left, Dave Bittner; Andy Alwine; Tim Lesh; Tony Seymore; Jon Lauver.

FFA State Legislative Leadership Conference Features Innovative Program

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — This year's FFA State Legislative Leadership Conference (SLLC) featured a unique program where students conducted simulated legislative sessions of the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives.

More than 320 representatives from FFA chapters throughout

the state attended the 16th annual conference at the Holiday Inn in Grantville, March 9-11.

This year the state FFA officers and second-year scholars were responsible for putting together a new version of SLLC, complete with a House of Representatives and a Senate.

Approximately 220 members

were assigned to the "House of Representatives" and approximately 65 members were selected for the "Senate."

The House and Senate members then proceeded to discuss and amend a total of six bills that have actually been presented in the Pennsylvania Legislature with some pertaining to agricultural issues. Beforehand, copies of the bills were provided for the students to familiarize themselves with the legislation.

These included House Bills 954, 606, and 2350 and Senate Bills 1325, 816, and 1413. Their subjects dealt with agricultural trespassing; depositing waste on

highways, property, or waters; amending the Public Eating and Drinking Place Law; animal exhibition sanitation; assaults with a biological agent on animal, fowl, or honey bees; and protecting agricultural operations from nuisance suits and ordinances under certain circumstances.

Students were able to see firsthand what it takes to actually get a bill through the legislative process. Parliamentary Procedure was taught and used extensively by all the participants.

In addition to their own "legislative sessions," the FFA students met with their state senators and representatives in Harrisburg and went on tours of the Hershey

Chocolate plant and the Milton Hershey School.

The conference concluded with a Legislative Breakfast at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, next to the Capitol in downtown Harrisburg Tuesday morning.

More than 60 state senators and representatives attended the closing event. Secretary of Agriculture Designee Dennis C. Wolff, along with representatives from the sponsoring company, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, gave remarks. Secretary of Education Designee Vicki Phillips also offered greetings from the Department of Education, which oversees the FFA programs.

