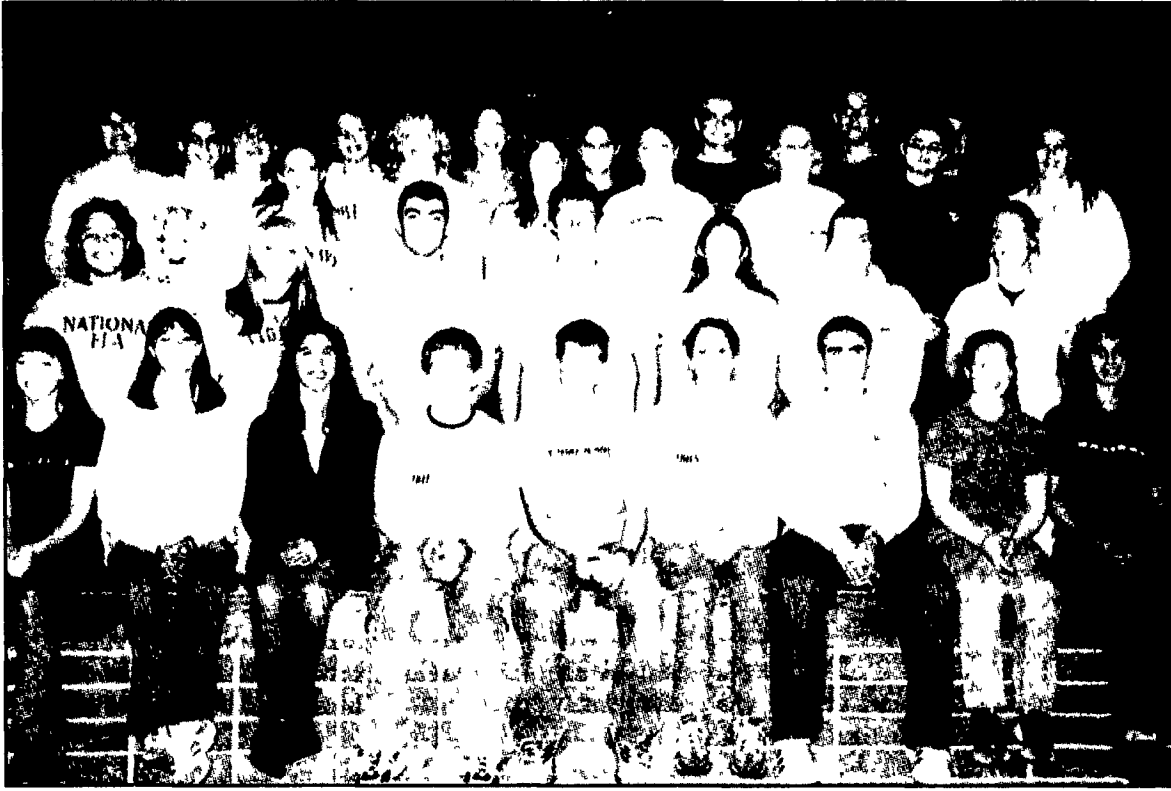


Buchanan FFA Dairy Judging Team Wins Hoard's Contest For 2nd Year



The dairy judging team of the Conococheague CE FFA Chapter at James Buchanan High School in Mercersburg won first place in the FFA/Ag Ed Division in the Hoard's Dairyman Judging Contest for the second consecutive year. The team members are, from left, front row, Brittany Beck, 15; Shaina Martin, 16; Meagan Meyers, 18; Aaron Horst, 16; John Fisher, 16; Alecia Martin, 18; Micah Meyers, 18; Greta Moyer, 17; and Sheena Wingert, 16. Middle row: Desiree Robinson, 16; Chassidy Myers, 17; Jason Stoner, 16; Pete Morgan, 18; Allison Holland, 15; Abby Stoner, 18; and Emilee Seville, 18. Third row: Janine Smith, 18; Hedi Crouse, 15; Jennifer Snider, 14; Joni Stanton, 16; Nicole Soler, 16; Valerie Walls, 16; Lindsey Norton, 16; and Ashley Brown, 15. Back row: Lisa Shaw, advisor and dairy judging coach; Charity Yeager, 16; Ann Heckman, 18; Aimee Heckman, 17; Allison Heckman, 15; Kevin Stahl, 17; Robert Sanders, 17; and Jed Yeatts, 15.

Tax Plan Includes Significant Savings

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Farm families will reap significant tax savings under President Bush's Jobs and Economic Growth Plan, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman said during a Tax Day news conference with House Agriculture Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, Va. "Tax Day is an appropriate time to highlight the President's plan, which would save farm families \$4 billion in taxes for 2003," said Veneman. "Through his plan, the President hopes that by the next tax day, millions of

Americans will be able to keep more of their own money to invest and spend."

Veneman said that under the President's plan, 85 percent of farm and ranch families would see some benefit. The savings include \$2.3 billion from accelerating reductions in income-tax rates, marriage penalty relief and the increased child credit; \$1.3 billion from eliminating the double taxation of dividends; and additional savings from increased small-business expensing, making 90 percent of all farm machinery and equipment tax deductible. The result is significant saving for individual families across the country.

For example, a farm family of four has an adjusted gross income of \$80,000, including \$37,500 in on-farm income and \$2,200 in taxable dividends on which corporate taxes were already paid. Under the current tax law, this family would

face an estimated \$9,866 in federal income taxes, before credits. The current child tax credit would reduce the family's federal income taxes to \$8,666.

Under the President's proposal, their taxable income would fall from \$59,850 to \$56,100, and this family would face federal income taxes, after credits, of \$5,735. After paying their federal self-employment tax, this family would benefit from total federal tax savings of 21 percent, or \$2,931.

If the same family makes a

large farm machinery purchase in 2003 and expenses an additional \$48,500 in the first year under the President's proposed tax changes, they would have a total federal tax liability of zero, and would receive a refund of part of the child credit.

In another example, a family of four with an adjusted gross income of \$40,000, including \$5,000 in on-farm income and \$300 in taxable dividends, would have their total federal tax burden reduced by 62 percent, or \$1,178.

Lancaster County Pasture Walks Set

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The Lancaster County Graziers and Lancaster County Extension have announced the first pasture walks of the season.

All of these pasture walks will take place from 10 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. They afford graziers the opportunity to learn from each other by hearing and observing what other folks are doing. Please pack a lunch, unless otherwise noted. Drinks will be provided by the host farm.

The following pasture walks have been set:

- May 8 — Green Meadows Farm, John K. Fisher and family, 2661 W. Eby Road, Bird in Hand. From Rt. 30 take Rt. 340 east toward Bird in Hand, turn left on Mt. Sidney Rd, right on Horseshoe Rd, and left on W. Eby Road. Farm is 1.5 miles on left.) The Fisher family grazes 35 Jersey cows on 40 acres. The operation is certified organic, with a wholly forage-based ration for the milking cows.

- May 28 — Garber Dairy Farm, Herb, Mark, and Joel Garber, 2167 Bossler Rd., Elizabethtown (717) 367-2141. (From 283 West, take Rheems/Elizabethtown exit, go left to light at Harrisburg Pike/Rt. 230. Go straight across and stay on Cloverleaf/Colebrook Rd. Take right onto Bossler Rd. Farm is on right past Bossler Mennonite Church.) The Garbers run 140 cows on more than 80 acres of pasture and more than 200 acres of cropland. They use a TMR in conjunction with pasture for the

milk herd. Lunch provided by Rohrer's Seeds and Homestead Nutrition.

- June 19 — Arden Landis Farm, 667 Puseyville Rd, Kirkwood (717) 529-6644 (Located two miles south of the Solanco Fairgrounds at the junction of Rt. 472 and Puseyville Rd.) The Landis family runs a seasonal organic dairy, with 90 cows on 120 acres. They have been grazing for ten years. They are using shades, and have some Italian ryegrass test plots on the farm for you to view.

- July 17 — John S. Glick Farm, 2285 W. Elizabethtown Rd., Marietta (717) 665-2010. (From Rt. 283, take Manheim/Mt. Joy Exit, turn right on Rt. 772, left on Breneman Rd., left on Colebrook Rd., and left on Elizabethtown Rd. to farm on left.) The Glick family grazes 55 cows on more than 40 acres of mixed pastures with shades. They are working to maximize production with limited acreage and inputs, using 20 paddocks and feeding a grain mix to the cattle.

Reservations are appreciated — they will help the host farm make necessary arrangements. For more information and to register, contact the Lancaster County Extension Office at (717) 394-6851. For biosecurity reasons, all who attend are encouraged to wear clean clothes and boots, and stay out of feeding and young stock areas.

Pa. Ag Republicans Set 2003 Agenda

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The executive committee of the Pennsylvania Ag Republicans met recently to set the 2003 agenda for the organization.

Mike Firestone, chairman, reviewed the 2002 election. Though the Republican Party did not win the Governor's office, many Republicans were returned to the state legislature with gains in the majority in the House of Representatives and also gains in the number of members of Congress.

Dan Haywood, political director for the State Republican Committee, addressed the group on the importance of the state judicial races.

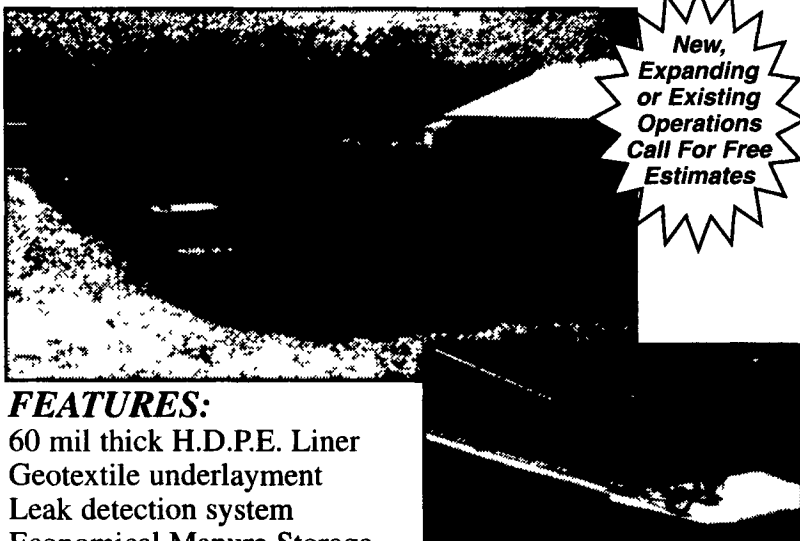
The Pennsylvania Ag Republicans will make special efforts to get the judicial candidates into rural communities and to have them available to meet the rural and agricultural people.

The annual chicken barbecue will take place at the VFW grounds, Rocksprings, Aug. 20, during Ag Progress Day with an iced tea social at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. An auction to raise money for campaign funds will follow the dinner.

To become a member of the Pennsylvania Ag Republicans or for additional information contact Mike Firestone at (717) 274-6906.


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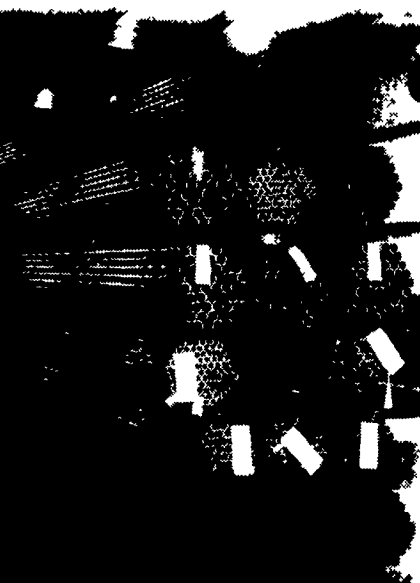
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