

Holstein Convention A Success

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Lad Hastings, Tulare, Calif., was the recipient of the Robert Rumler Scholarship. He is obtaining a master's degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix in Fresno, Calif.

Special Friend Awards of Holstein Association USA were presented to Holstein Canada and the Holstein Association of Mexico.

John M. Meyer, CEO, gave a brief synopsis of a successful year for the association and the Holstein cow. The association had a financial improvement of more than \$4.1 million in 2002, indicating a continued interest in the programs and services provided by Holstein Association USA.

"Last year, revenues grew by over 3 percent and operating costs were reduced by 8 percent, which accounted for the much-improved year," Meyer said. "The implementation of our Management-By-Objective Business Plan was a key component in the improvement made last year."

Meyer emphasized the success of the Holstein Complete program, a new package of services

offered by Holstein Association USA, which was embraced beyond expectations by the membership.

Delegates elected Tom Nunes, Santa Rosa, Calif., to serve as president of the association's 12-member board of directors. Randolph Gross, Valleyford, Wash., completed his second term as director, and was voted to the position of vice president of the organization.

Additional election results included Glen E. Brown, Coalville, Utah, for a three-year term as director in region VIII; Elmo Wendorf Jr., Ixonia, Wis., re-elected in region V; and Marvin L. Nunes, Windsor, Calif., re-elected in region IX. Wendorf and Nunes will serve three-year terms. Thomas L. Thorbahn, Vickery, Ohio, was elected director-at-large.

Retiring directors include Henry J. Beneke, Millerton, N.Y.; C. Rayford Bennett, Madison, Ga.; and James A. Spreng, Bucyrus, Ohio. Joann F. Hartman, Waterloo, Ill. finished 12 years of service on the board of directors, most recently on a two-year term as president.

Bylaw amendment proposals included the enrollment of animals with non-Holstein genetics into the Holstein herdbook. This amendment was tabled for further consideration next year after a review of the board of directors and Holstein Association USA staff.

A second bylaw amendment was split by the delegates, and voted on as two proposals. The first part, which passed, resulted in the requirement that a director must be a member in good standing with the association. The second half, requiring the vice president to have previously served on the board of directors, did not gain the majority support by the delegate body.

Two resolutions were passed on to the board of directors. The first resolution recognized the importance of milk marketing to the membership during this depressed time of low milk prices. The second resolution related to the responsibility of Holstein Association USA in regard to National Show Ethics.

For more information, see Holstein Association USA's Website at www.holsteinusa.com.



Plans for Pennsylvania

HON. DENNIS C. WOLFF
Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture

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mains strong, and the future promises to be even brighter.

Much of the credit goes to those who live and work on the 59,000 farms throughout the commonwealth. In addition, our government is working for us as never before. Governor Ed Rendell's Plan for a New Pennsylvania includes measures to lower property taxes for rural Pennsylvanians, to provide our children with a better understanding of agriculture's importance in our lives, and financial incentives for farmers to expand or improve their operations.

As a dairy farmer, I understand the problems facing agriculture. I have struggled to pay taxes, winced over low milk prices, and wondered when the rain was going to stop. As the secretary of agriculture, I am working for solutions to our collective challenges. Just as farmers benefit from the experiences of past generations, I too will build on the work that has been done.

The Plan for a New Pennsylvania focuses on two primary goals of the Department of Agriculture - education and economic development.

Agricultural education should target both the farming and non-farming community. We want to encourage greater interest and participation in agriculture and foster a better understanding of the realities and challenges of the industry.

The key here is starting early - with our children - so that future generations of agriculturists are not hampered by the policies of the uninformed. Ignorance is costly for agriculture. We will work with schools to enhance awareness of school-aged children about the importance of agriculture for the economy, community, and life.

At the same time, we need to foster local government education. Local ordinances threaten to cripple the agriculture industry. I will work to educate government officials about environmental advancements in the agriculture in-

dustry and the many ways agriculture contributes to a healthy lifestyle. Local ordinances not only discriminate against farm size, they impact every agricultural enterprise. As I have stated before, the Rendell Administration will support all farms, regardless of size - small, medium, and large. My goal is to ensure that the 12 million citizens of Pennsylvania continue to enjoy the bounty of agriculture.

As farmers know, there is serious concern about the state of the agricultural economy. Our focus on economic development aims to increase agricultural investment and enhance profitability. Gov. Rendell recognizes that agriculture is a business. In his Plan for a New Pennsylvania, \$100 million is available for Small Business First Program and the Machinery and Equipment Loan (MELF) Program. This is the largest single investment in economic development ever proposed for agriculture.

In addition, the Department of Agriculture will continue to work with the USDA to expand risk management products like crop insurance to protect our farmers. We also need to make sure that environmental, local, and state laws recognize the importance and uniqueness of agriculture.

For as long as I can remember, Pennsylvania farmers have paid a disproportionate share of property taxes. The Plan for a New Pennsylvania will help to address this problem by reducing them by as much as 30 percent in the first year alone. This is a great first step.

This is just the beginning of what I want to accomplish in the next four years. If we can provide agriculture the right tools to prosper, then agriculture will grow and we all know that growing is something that agriculture does very well.

I welcome suggestions from the agriculture community. Our collective challenge is to keep agriculture vibrant and profitable. That will require teamwork and the support of the agricultural industry and all levels of government. Together we can

make the future of Pennsylvania agriculture bright. I look forward to working with you.



Ag Progress Days Aug. 19-21

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) - Ag Progress Days, Pennsylvania's largest outdoor agricultural exposition, will return for its annual three-day run, Aug. 19-21.

Sponsored by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, the event is conducted at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rockspring, nine miles southwest of State College.

Special exhibits, with the theme "Seeing the Forest for the Trees," will showcase research and educational programs to develop and maintain healthy tree species, promote better woodlot management, and support a vigorous forest products industry. Majors and careers in forest resources also will be highlighted.

"We strive to plan an event that reflects the diversity of the college's programs," said Bob Oberheim, Ag Progress Days manager. "Our themed exhibits, combined with many of the tradi-

tional activities that we offer each year, ensure that virtually anyone can find something of interest at Ag Progress Days."

More than 350 commercial exhibitors will display the latest goods and services. Interactive displays, guided tours, and workshops will show how research and educational programs are addressing important issues, safeguarding our food supply and the environment, and helping to improve the efficiency and profitability of agriculture and related industries.

Faculty and extension staff from the college will be on hand to answer questions and provide information on crops and soils; dairy, livestock, and equine production; conservation practices; integrated pest management; woodlot management; farm safety; and home gardening and lawn care.

Other activities planned for this year's event include a skid steer rodeo and several new tours, including a tour of the

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's new Animal Evaluation Laboratory, which recently was completed near the Ag Progress Days site.

Field demonstrations will feature hay mowing, hay rakes and tedders, baling, bale handling, conservation tillage, and manure application to reduce odor and preserve residue cover.

Also planned are family living exhibits and demonstrations; a corn maze; cut flower beds and exhibits; storytelling; an equine program, including special American Quarter Horse Association exhibitions; live animal displays; a tree-climbing adventure; a museum of antique farm and home implements; and a wide variety of food booths.

Ag Progress Days hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 19, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Aug. 20, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 21. Admission and parking are free.

For more information, call (800) PSU-1010 toll-free from July 14 to August 21 or visit the Ag Progress Days Website at <http://apd.cas.psu.edu>.

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