

Ohio Agriculture Director Orders Egg Farm To Close

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — Ohio Agriculture Director Fred L. Dailey ordered the closure of barns at Buckeye Egg Farm, revoking 12 permits and denying 11 others that allowed the farm to operate. This final action concludes the proposed administrative action Dailey initiated on Aug. 19, 2002, the day he began regulating Ohio's largest livestock and poultry farms under state environmental law.

"Today, I have ordered Buckeye Egg Farm to begin closing their barns within 20 business days," said Dailey. "The pollution and nuisance problems caused by this farm during the last decade were intolerable. The sad legacy of mismanagement of Buckeye Egg Farm is rapidly coming to an end."

A hearing officer upheld Dailey's proposed action after listening to hundreds of hours of testimony on the issue and researching state law.

Dailey ordered Buckeye Egg Farm to begin closing two barns a week starting with the Mar-sailles facilities in Wyandot County. The next facility ordered closed is the Croton farms in Licking County, beginning with Layer Site No. 2, followed by Layer Site No. 1, the pullet sites, breeder site, hatchery, and remaining layer sites. The third facility ordered closed is the Go-

shen farm located in Hardin County. The final facility ordered closed is the Mt. Victory barns, also located in Hardin County.

The order states all barn closings should be complete by June 1, 2004, and all manure must be removed no later than September 1, 2004. Closing barns includes removing all birds; cleaning and removing feed from feed bins and feed conveyor lines; and draining all water lines and shutting off all water service. Buckeye Egg Farm may appeal Dailey's final order to the Environmental Review Appeals Commission within 30 days.

"I am disappointed that this closure will likely cost jobs and income for many family farmers and other residents of rural Central Ohio," Dailey said. "This extreme action is warranted after nine contempt citations and a history of significant non-compliance with environmental laws. Most Ohio farmers are good stewards of their land and livestock. Thousands of family farmers and ag-related businesses depend on the success of the state's poultry and livestock farms."

Dailey added: "I am confident this farm's facilities can be assets to their communities if properly managed. If a prospective new owner provides us with a complete, comprehensive plan under the new rules, this department

will consider it. So far, we have permit applications from prospective new owners for all of the Buckeye Egg Farm facilities, but none are complete under the law."

Dailey promised to continue the advances made by the department's new program for permitting large livestock and poultry farms. In nearly one year, ODA's Livestock Environmental Permitting Program has issued 17 final permits to install and permits to operate, six draft permits are in or near the public comment phase, and 25 permit applications are in the review process.

The authority to regulate farms with more than 1,000 animal units was given to ODA under S.B. 141, signed into law in December 2000 by Governor Bob Taft. On Aug. 19, 2002, the ODA Livestock Environmental Permitting Program began implementing rules governing construction for all new and existing large livestock and poultry farms; all aspects of manure storage, handling, transportation, and land-application by these farms; the farms' plans for insect and rodent control; and compliance and enforcement procedures.

"We now have one of the most progressive programs in the country for preventing environmental and nuisance problems while fostering jobs and growth for rural Ohio," Dailey said.

Rendell Releases \$7.9 Million To Del Val

DOYLESTOWN (Bucks Co.) — Governor Edward G. Rendell was represented by Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Dennis C. Wolff at Delaware Valley College, where the administration announced a grant of \$7.9 million to the college.

The grant will be used to complete a new Biotechnology Research Center, to be located at the Doylestown campus. The capital for this project was previously released by former Gov. Schweiker.

"This grant of critical capital development dollars, which will create at least 110 new jobs, is a perfect example of the type of targeted investment we must make as a state if we are going to turn our economy around," said Rendell. "It is absolutely essential that we use the limited funding that we have, especially in the face of a grim fiscal situation, to have the greatest possible impact

on the lives of Pennsylvanians. I am certain that this grant will help accomplish that goal."

The development of the Biotechnology Research Center, through a partnership between Delaware Valley College and the Hepatitis B Foundation, will have a significant impact on the local, regional and state economies. The center, which will increase student enrollment and educational opportunities, will work to attract and retain high technology companies and the jobs that accompany such business to Pennsylvania. The college expects that the center will directly create 110 new, high-quality jobs, and approximately 300 jobs including the impact of the center on the local economy. Additionally, the center estimates that the project will generate \$14.0 million in state tax revenue over a five-year period.

Biotechnology and other life

sciences sectors play a major role in the Pennsylvania economy and the development of this Center will strengthen and enhance the workforce that contributes to these sectors and the economic conditions of this region and state.

On March 25, Gov. Rendell delivered an historic speech to a joint session of the Pennsylvania Legislature in which he outlined his Plan for a New Pennsylvania. The Governor's Plan calls for the reduction of property taxes in each of our state's 501 school districts, unprecedented levels of education funding, and an economic stimulus package that will have an economic impact of greater than \$5 billion.

FFA Dairy Team Places First



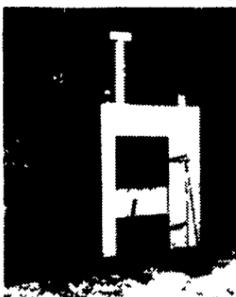
ALFRED, N.Y. — A team of Mifflinburg FFA members recently traveled to here to compete in the Annual Dairy Judging Conference at the Farm Laboratory of the State University of New York in Alfred. The team of Ginger Spangler, Joshua Moser, Alicia Spangler, and Troy Martin earned first-place honors in the FFA Division. During the day, each member judged six classes of milking and young cattle from the Holstein, Ayrshire, and Jersey breeds. Besides class placings, they are also scored on their ability to answer questions about the animals once the animals were no longer visible. Following each class, the official judge would give his reasons for the placings and answer questions.

Individually, Ginger Spangler placed second, Josh Moser fourth, Alicia Spangler eighth, and Troy Martin 10th.

From left, Ginger Spangler, Troy Martin, Joshua Moser, and Alicia Spangler.

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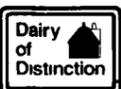
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Sixteen new dairy farms have been chosen as Dairies of Distinction in Pennsylvania this year. Be sure to check out these picturesque and well-managed farmsteads in Lancaster Farming's Dairy of Distinction issue July 26. Each farm will be shown in full color with a write-up describing the family and dairy operation.



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