

# Pennsylvania Ag Secretary Unveils Dairy Plan

**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff this week unveiled Pennsylvania's Dairy Action Plan in an effort to assist the state's dairy industry.

Wolff outlined the plan during a meeting of the Dairy Task Force at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) building in Harrisburg.

"The dairy industry is a driving force in Pennsylvania's economy, representing nearly 40 percent of the Commonwealth's agricultural industry and generating \$1.7 billion in economic activity," Wolff said. "This segment of agriculture is a major determinant of the vitality of many of Pennsylvania's rural communities. We have created the Dairy Action Plan to provide the necessary leadership to help

ensure that Pennsylvania dairy farms are profitable and competitive."

Wolff, a Columbia County dairy farmer, created the task force in July 2003 to make sure the PDA focused on listening to Pennsylvania's dairy leadership.

Wolff added that the dairy leadership's review and guidance is critical to the success of the Dairy Action Plan.

The Dairy Action Plan, which was approved unanimously by the nearly 40 members of the Dairy Task Force in attendance, will be comprised of several components, including:

- **Dairy Task Force.** Already in place, the Dairy Task Force will advise Wolff on dairy issues and assist with the development and implementation of the

Dairy Action Plan and the Pennsylvania Center for Dairy Excellence.

- **Pennsylvania Center for Dairy Excellence.** Located at PDA, the center will be administered by an executive director. The mission of the center will be to coordinate existing dairy services to better meet the needs of the dairy industry and to supplement services being offered to the dairy industry. The center will use both internal and external resources and create teams to operate out of the regional offices to assist the center in its mission.

- **Web-Based Resource Library.** The library will be designed and maintained by PDA. The Website will contain information on hot topics, farms for sale or rent, programs for eco-

nomc development assistance, sample business plans, marketing opportunities, risk management assistance, and other topics of interest to the dairy industry.

- **On-Farm Coaching Program.** PDA will develop a pilot program designed to assess the business practices of the farm and set goals for improving efficiency and profitability. Throughout the year, management issues such as genetic proficiency, milk quality, and production costs will be evaluated.

- **Dairy Management Program.** Part of the Center for Dairy Excellence, the program will utilize regional teams and an on-farm coaching program to help farmers become more profitable and competitive.

Wolff added that the Dairy Action Plan will depend on partnerships to sustain a strong knowledge base to aid the Center and help fulfill the plan's mission. This includes Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture partners in animal health and diagnostic services, market and economic development, food nutrition and safety, plant industry, and the State Conservation Commission.

Externally, entities such as the USDA, Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors, Dairy Stakeholders, Professional Dairy Managers, Dickinson Law School's Ag Law Center, Penn State Cooperative Extension, agriculture cooperatives, and farm organizations will represent an important part of the plan.

# Hoch Elected Board Chairman Of John Cope's Food Products

**RHEEMS** (Lancaster Co.) — John Cope's Food Products, Inc., recently announced that Paul D. Hoch has been elected as chairman of the board of directors. Thomas L. Cope has retired as chairman, but will remain active as a director of the corporation and senior advisor.

Hoch, a resident of Carlisle, has been a member of the corporation's board of directors since January 2000. His extensive experience includes a thirty-four year career in business management, first with JC Penney, Inc., and later with Hershey Foods Corporation where he served for eighteen years as the general

manager of Hershey's Chocolate World Visitor Center.

Under his leadership, Hoch turned Chocolate World into one of the largest corporate visitor centers in the country, attracting more than 2 million people each year. He initiated the Hershey Gift Catalog and built Hershey's wholesale gift-giving business. Hoch is also a former board member and board chairman of the Harrisburg Regional Chamber.

Thomas L. Cope stepped down as chairman on schedule with a succession plan established several years ago. Larry Jones will remain as the company's president and CEO.

"Tom Cope has made a tremendous contribution to this company over the span of his career as CEO and chairman," said Hoch. "I feel very positive about the company's future, and look forward to helping to strengthen the business and enhance the Cope family legacy."

Established in Lancaster County in 1900, John Cope's Food Products today is a privately held, multi-million dollar regional food company selling a wide variety of branded and private label frozen and dried vegetable products to supermarkets and foodservice customers from Vermont to Florida, and west to the Mississippi.

**AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURES, COMMERCE, AND NAVIGATION — THE FOUR PILLARS OF OUR PROSPERITY — ARE THE MOST THRIVING WHEN LEFT MOST FREE TO INDIVIDUAL ENTERPRISE.**

— President Thomas Jefferson  
Message to Congress 1801  
Reprinted in PMA Bulletin

## Sale Reports

### CARTER SALE

A public sale was conducted by Probst Family Auction Service on Saturday, October 18, for Mrs. Clair (Pat) Carter, Holtwood.

A 21-acre farmette w/2,800 sq ft 5-bedroom house, 45'x48' frame barn and several other detach bldgs was sold at auction for \$425,000 to Clarence Wenger of Quarryville.

A 1998 GMC SL Sierra Pickup w/c ap brought \$9,400. Other farm equip incl a New Holland skid loader, \$5,300; Massey Ferguson 135 tractor, \$3,600; a Farmall super tractor \$3,300; a Pequea trailer w/winch, \$1,600; Big Valley horse trailer, \$800; a Niemeyer hay tedder, \$675; John Deere #640 hay rake, \$450; New Holland #467 haybine, \$425; New Holland #268 Hayliner, \$400; bin wagon, \$400; New Idea manure spreader, \$375; Vicon sprayer, \$400; John Deere 2 row corn planter, \$250; and Massey Ferguson #413 sickle bar mower, \$475. Guns included: Winchester 12 ga model 97, \$370; Winchester Model 94, 30-30, \$325; Winch 12 ga Model 12, \$300; and London Black Powder double barrel, \$275. Other collectibles: wooden wheelbarrow, \$300; English saddle, \$200; 6 Ebersole chairs, \$180; a Buch #7 corn sheller, \$130; Milwaukee Sawzall, \$120; Rohrs amber flask, \$105; wood buggy seat, \$75; iron dinner bell, \$75; McCoy log cabin cookie jar, \$90; 6 qt wooden dry measure, \$50; and a McCready Chincoteage Oyster tin, \$50. Registered Bidders, 381.

### SENENIG SALE

A public sale of real estate was conducted on Saturday, October 18, for the John Z. Sensenig estate consisting of 1½ acre real estate with 2½ story brick dwelling which sold for \$266,000 to Mr & Mrs Lamar Zimmerman, Earl Twp.

The sale was conducted by Horst Auctioneers, Ephrata.

### MENGEL SALE

A public sale was conducted on October 18 for the personal collection of Mike & Sandy Mengel, Mt. Pleasant Mills. The items sold were as follows: Duck decoy, \$290.00; grey granite cream can, \$220.00; shaker box, \$360.00; Adams Rose teapot, repairs, \$650.00; Noah Eby Woodward Stoneware Jug, \$2,050.00; "Rooms For Tourists" sign, \$500.00; hanging salt box, \$300.00; bear pull toy, \$250.00; dovetailed small box, \$325.00; drysink w/lid, \$950.00; spool cabinet \$450.00; apothecary chest, \$750.00; farm table, \$800.00; Windsor chair, \$450.00; corner cupboard, \$1,900.00; hanging salt box, \$825.00; spice chest, \$700.00; plantation desk, \$1,200.00; stepback cupboard, \$1,800.00; rocking pig, \$1,050.00; bucket benches, \$850.00 and \$1,000.00; grain painted mini blanket chest, \$725.00; chimney cupboard, \$400.00; plain decorated blanket chest, \$2,000.00; Remington 38-40, \$460.00; Gentzel Eagle carving, \$345.00; legends of the Susquehanna printing blocks, \$335.00; wooden fork, \$300.00; cast cannon, \$225.00; and apothecary

jars, \$80.00-\$210.00.

The sale was conducted at the Freeburg Community Building by Auctioneers: Kenneth E. Hassinger, McClure, and Neil A. Courtney, Richfield. There were 194 registered bidders.

### BOWMAN SALE

A public action was held on Saturday October 18 for Esther H. Bowman location 616 Plymouth Drive, Myers-town. There were 278 registered bidders. The auction was conducted by Aaron E. Martin Auction Service of Ephrata.

The items sold were: a 1999 Silverado 4wd pickup, \$13,000.00; Honda Harmony 2013 riding mower, \$1,600.00; Lombardini 4000 watt diesel generator, \$1,900.00; Ariens snowblower, \$370.00. Winross Trucks: 2 Dutch Valley \$35.00 & \$30.00; New Holland Supply, \$30.00; Laysr Flowers, \$55.00; 3 pc Mack, set \$50.00; and Kodac Rasing, \$20.00. 34 silver dollars, \$7.00 to \$29.00 each.

Also sold were: footed carnival bowls: \$200.00, \$240.00, \$260.00, \$250.00 and \$320.00; carnival vases: \$70.00, 70.00 & \$70.00; carnival basket, \$65.00; quilt, \$120.00; cast iron frog, \$70.00; 2 milk cans, \$70.00 & \$45.00; menet small world rhythm clock, \$725.00; pottery cup & bowl, \$95.00; brass book ends, \$95.00; men's sim pocket watch, \$100.00; tin wind up tricycle, \$45.00; Northwood plate, \$80.00; 31-day clock, \$60.00; Rose sugar & creamer, \$80.00; slag pitcher, \$105.00; slag lamp, \$170.00.

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