

Pa. State Grange Session

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addressed the audience about what is happening at the agriculture department.

Wolff spoke about his "Harvest Tour," which began last Thursday.

"No matter what part of Pennsylvania you go to, it becomes very obvious how important agriculture is to the state economy," said Wolff.

Wolff also touched upon several new initiatives the agriculture department is working on.

To help increase awareness to Pennsylvania agriculture products, Wolff announced the plans for "Pennsylvania Preferred," to be unveiled at the time of the 2004 Farm Show.

"It is a way that will be branding our products that are produced here in Pennsylvania," said Wolff. "So when these products go to the marketplace, consumers will have the option to buy locally and support local agriculture."

Wolff continued to say that this program will include the entire cross section of the food supply, landscape and nursery industry, and hardwood industry.

"Any agricultural products

that are grown, produced, and processed in Pennsylvania will have the opportunity to be in this program," said Wolff.

Wolff also reviewed several education, dairy industry, agribusiness, and environmental initiatives the agriculture department has been developing.

"The Department of Agriculture is taking a little different role than it has in previous years," said Wolff in regards to his departmental initiatives.

Wolff also stated Gov. Ed Rendell administration's commitment to agriculture and awareness of agriculture's importance to economic development.

"When you think of every dollar of farm revenue turning into \$10 of gross revenue in the state," said Wolff, "that's phenomenal."

Wolff's comments follow up Rendell's address last Friday where the governor spoke about several administration priorities such as property taxes and the opening of the Small Business First Loans and Machinery and Equipment Loan Funds to agriculture. Additionally, the governor said he opened the First Industry Fund to both agriculture and tourism.

Lois Steele, state community

service director, praised the audience for the excellent response for the statewide service project. This year's project was a clothing drive for The Career Wardrobe, an organization that assists economically disadvantaged women trying to transition from welfare programs to work.

Grange members donated more than 1,000 items in job-interview-appropriate women's clothing.

Steele also recognized several Granges for their outstanding work in community service for 2003. Winning in the Pomona Grange category was Montour/Northumberland/Union Pomona Grange; in the local grange category under 75 members, Elkland Grange; and in the over 75 category, Perry Valley Grange.

Carl Meiss, state public relations and membership director, commended the local Granges for an excellent year in new memberships and thanked them for their hard work as he presented the membership awards.

Meiss also said that October brought a record high in monthly new membership in a recent history and gave special recognition to Middletown Grange in Berks County for 47 new members in October.

PDMP Meeting To Focus On Improving Forages

UNIVERSITY PARK, (Centre Co.) — "Growing Forages for Milk and Money" is the topic of the next Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania (PDMP) membership meeting scheduled Nov. 13 at Paul Dotterer and Sons, Inc., in Mill Hall, Clinton County.

PDMP, along with hosts Larry and John Dotterer, invite producers and agribusiness representatives from across the state to join PDMP members for a day filled with information and fellowship.

Dr. Randy Shaver, professor of dairy science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, will offer the keynote presentation: "Growing Forages for Milk and Money."

Shaver was born and raised on a western Pennsylvania dairy farm. He completed a B.S. degree in dairy science at Penn State in 1981, received a master's degree at the University of Maryland in 1982, and a doctorate degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1986.

Shaver's research focuses on applied nutrition of lactating dairy cattle with emphasis on

carbohydrates, forages, and B-vitamins. He has been a speaker at numerous dairy conferences around the world, and has authored or coauthored 41 peer-reviewed journal publications, 71 scientific abstracts, and more than 60 popular-press articles in industry trade magazines. He has received several awards for research and teaching excellence, including the 1991 Educator of the Year Award from the Wisconsin Forage Council.

The day will also feature workshops and tours, including a presentation on feedbank management by Dr. Shaver. Sarah Roth of Dairy Alliance will host a display on Penn State services for custom operators. Participants will tour the Dotterers' special needs and parlor areas and their TMR operations.

Meeting sponsors are Ag-Choice Farm Credit, Land O'Lakes, Pennfield, Pioneer, and Purina.

The meeting will begin at 8:45 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. Cost to attend is \$10 for PDMP members, and \$50 for non-members. A catered luncheon is included. Registration is required in advance. To pre-register, contact Michele Moyer toll free at (888) 373-7232 or by e-mail at mcm14@psu.edu.



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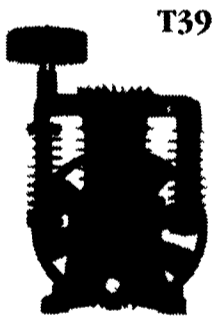
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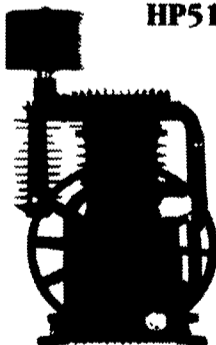
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