



Plans for Pennsylvania

HON. DENNIS C. WOLFF
Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture

AGED RESOURCE

Long before I became secretary of agriculture, I realized the value of agricultural education. As a farmer and public servant, I recognize the quality teaching that agricultural education offers and have greatly benefited from the lessons that I learned in class. I know that there are many students who have benefited from aged programs as well.

Yet, there are many people — children and adults alike — that lack even the most basic concepts

of agriculture. I am constantly amazed at *how many* people cannot tell you where milk comes from — other than from a plastic container at the local grocery store. As a leading economic enterprise in the commonwealth, a lack of knowledge about agriculture within the general public can be extremely costly to an economic infrastructure that essentially revolves around the industry.

As secretary of agriculture, I am committed to agricultural ed-

ucation — and this includes education to both the ag and non-ag public. When I put forth my Agricultural Education Initiative in July, I announced that we would create a Web-based agricultural education resource library. I am pleased to say that that project has been completed and is available for use.

Last week, I joined Education Secretary Vicki Philips at Dauphin County Technical School to launch Marketplace for the Mind .com (www.marketplaceforthemind.com), a groundbreaking agricultural education resource for teachers, students, the agricultural community, and the public.

The Website, created through a joint effort between the agriculture and education departments, with the support and input of many agricultural organizations and advisory boards, streamlines and consolidates the efforts of many groups dedicated to education both in and about agriculture. It is part of a multifaceted initiative being advanced by the Department of Agriculture to provide agricultural education opportunities to both school-aged children and adults.

The information contained on the site is also designed to help students

achieve proficiency to fulfill state standards. The site's educational resource library contains curriculum materials aligned to state academic standards for environment and ecology and science and technology.

Educators will also be able to access grants for classroom supplies and equipment, as well as opportunities appropriate for field trips. The resource library will also provide information for students on school projects, scholarships, higher education, and careers.

The agricultural community will benefit from details on low-interest loans, technical information, and industry programming. Moreover, the general public will benefit from up-to-date agricultural information, event listings, and issues in agriculture.

The launching of this site marks the beginning of a new approach to education in and about agriculture in the common-

wealth. This one site will provide efficient and convenient access to quality, agriculturally-focused teaching materials and information that can be used informally or to help students meet current teaching standards.

This site is a great step in the right direction to incorporating agriculture in the classroom and increasing understanding of agriculture in the commonwealth. I am extremely pleased that individuals outside of agriculture will be able to more easily take advantage of agricultural education lessons and become more aware of the impact the industry has on Pennsylvania's economy.

I am confident that through agricultural education we will be able to continue the strong tradition of agriculture in Pennsylvania and remain at the forefront of American agriculture. I invite you all to visit our new Website located at: www.marketplaceforthemind.com.

Beaver Farm-City Banquet Nov. 20

BEAVER (Beaver Co.) — The 48th Annual Beaver County Farm-City Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Big Knob Grange in New Sewickley Township. This year's banquet will feature a meal produced entirely in Beaver County. Exhibits by local agricultural organizations will be open at 5:30 p.m.; dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

The Farm City Banquet originated in 1955 to provide a meaningful experience for urban and rural residents to appreciate farm and rural life in Beaver County.

This year's speaker will be John Scott, Region IV Director, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$7 for children ages 12 and under. Seating is limited and paid reservations are required. For tickets, make checks payable to "New Sewickley Kiwanis," and mail, postmarked by Nov. 13, to Penn State Cooperative Extension, 1000 Third Street, Suite 102, Beaver, PA 15009. Be sure to include a self-addressed stamped envelope to receive your tickets.



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