

Senate candidate to appear at Grange Fair

Rep. Joe Sestak, D-Pa., is the latest politician to make a campaign stop at the Centre Hall fair.

By Nick Manella
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Centre County Grange and Encampment Fair attracts more than the average fair-goer.

It's also become a hot spot for politicians to meet local voters — a move that's become even more popular with the looming November elections.

Democratic Senate candidate Rep. Joe Sestak, D-Pa., is the most recent in a growing list of politicians to stop by the fair. Sestak is scheduled to appear at the fair in Centre Hall, Pa., at 1

p.m. Thursday for the annual Grange Fair parade, a spokesperson for Sestak's camp said.

Sestak's opponent — Republican Pat Toomey — appeared at the fair last week.

Sestak's appearance caps off a week of heavy political presence at the fair.

Already this week, six candidates and incumbents have appeared at their respective party's booths, located in close proximity to the fair headquarters building.

Additional local candidates are also expected to appear at the parade.

"The Grange Fair has always been a very grassroots-based atmosphere," Grange Fair General Manager Darlene Confer said.

"Anytime the 2,500 families here have a time to talk one-on-one with a political candidate, especially local ones, it's a great opportunity."

Confer said Sestak's campaign reached out to the Grange Fair in June about the appearance.

Fair patrons said they were excited by the idea of meeting a big-time candidate so close to the elections.

"I'm looking forward to meeting him," said Jaclyn Osterstock, who

"You really don't get the chance to meet someone running for the senate up close. It'll be interesting to be able to speak to him face to face."

Jaclyn Osterstock
Grange Fair patron



Sestak



Toomey

has attended the fair for many years. "You really don't get the chance to meet someone running for the senate up close. It'll be interesting to be able to speak to him face to face. Usually you only see [these people] on TV or online."

Campaign spokesman Jordan Mishkin said Sestak has attended the parade previously.

Mishkin said Sestak will be available to speak with anyone interested afterward at the

Democratic booth on the fairgrounds.

"This really is a state-wide race, so we were drawn to the Grange fair to take advantage of that," Mishkin said.

"Also, the close proximity to Penn State is another factor."

Currently there are no plans for Sestak to appear at Penn State, but Mishkin said he's open to the idea.

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Researchers hope cow diet changes will reduce pollution

By Alaina Gallagher
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Everyone knows SUVs and aerosol cans are notorious contributors to global warming — but what about cows?

These unlikely culprits are contributing to the addition of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere through their emission of methane gas, said Alexander Hristov, associate professor of dairy nutrition at Penn State.

A group of Penn State researchers including Hristov, however, believe they may have found a possible solution to reduce the amount of methane dairy cows release into the atmosphere by adding a supplement to the cows' feed: oregano.

The research project began when former graduate student Jessica Tekippe, Class of 2010, asked "What would be new and novel and something that would have an impact on the industry in years to come?" as an idea for her master's project, said Gabriella Varga, distinguished professor of animal science.

Hristov said hundreds of products were screened — including plants, herbs, essential oils and individual compounds — before oregano was deemed to be the best possible solution.

The products were screened inside the lab before they were actually given to the animals, Hristov said.

Once they discovered that oregano seemed to be the additive that produced the best results, it was mixed in with the feed of eight Penn State dairy cows. After about two weeks, the researchers saw similar results to those that occurred in the lab.

The experiment yielded impressive numbers with a 40 percent reduction in the amount of methane produced and an increase of about three pounds of milk produced per day by the cows, Hristov said.

Since methane actually causes the cows

40%
Reduction in the amount of methane produced after adding the oregano supplement to the cow's diet.

3 lbs
Increase in milk produced per day by the cows.

to lose energy, reducing the amount of methane they produce helps them to be more efficient with their energy supply, for example producing more milk, Hristov said.

Varga said the oregano did not have any negative effects on the cows nor did it alter the quality of the milk they produced.

The Penn State dairy cows eat about 100 pounds of feed per day, which is comprised of a pound of oregano during the experiment, she said.

Chan Hee Lee, a graduate student currently involved with the research, said if the ongoing experiments yielded positive results, the use of oregano could be good news for farmers and might also benefit the environment.

Researchers are currently running more trials of the oregano experiment and hoping to obtain similar results. They are also working to isolate the specific compounds in the oregano that have this particular effect on the methane production, Hristov said.

If the trials are successful, the use of oregano could be environmentally beneficial and economically advantageous to dairy farmers by enabling cows to be more efficient, Varga said.

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LOUNGING AT THE LIBRARY



Melissa Kidd (sophomore-classical studies) enjoys the warm weather outside the Pattee-Paterno Library on Wednesday afternoon.



Collegian file photo

The next available time for student health insurance will be the spring semester.

Deadline to purchase UHS health insurance approaches

By Alexa Agugliaro
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

With the Sept. 7 deadline for students to purchase health insurance rapidly approaching, Karen Kline said the most heartbreaking part of her job is turning down students who come to her unable to afford their medical bills because of their lack of adequate health insurance.

Since Penn State does not have a mandatory insurance requirement for permanent residents, the next time students can be insured won't be until the spring, said Kline, Penn State's manager for student health insurance.

"The time is now to have the conversation with your parents and make sure you are covered," Kline said.

Anissa Daniel (junior-human development and family studies) said she's grateful for the many reminder e-mails she receives from University Health Services (UHS) about the health insurance deadline, though she is currently covered under her parents' insurance as long as she is a student.

Daniel said she has to start looking for affordable insurance quotes for after she graduates.

Other students, like Anthony Piccolo (freshman-division of undergraduate studies), said they haven't given the issue much thought at all.

"For now, I feel safe with the coverage I have from my parents and I don't find it necessary to get my own," Piccolo said.

UHS Senior Associate Director Doris Guanowsky advises students to "make an informed decision."

"Young people tend to think they are invincible, but anyone could need immediate surgery or break a bone," Guanowsky said. "So many little things can add up to large expenses."

Kline said her main concern is keeping students from being in large debt.

"It's a gamble if you are not insured. Students are gambling with their financial futures as well as their health and wellbeing," Kline said.

A Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Plan is offered by the university and automatically covers prescriptions per sickness, woman's health exams and any type of small injury, Kline said.

Guanowsky compares health insurance to car insurance. She said every driver in Pennsylvania purchases car insurance, even though they never plan on getting into a car accident.

The same, she said, should go for health insurance.

"No one plans to be sick or injured, but it's always best to plan for the worst," Guanowsky said.

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