

'Faith, freedom, harmony' was the message

DPAC Update

By SHERRY BUNTING
Special for Farmshine

EAST EARL, Pa.—“We have a lot to be thankful for,” said Amos Stoltzfoos, with humility, as he welcomed dairy producer board members of DPAC (Dairy Policy Action Coalition) and its cream-of-the-crop supporters, as well as special guests, to a holiday thank-you dinner his company jointly sponsored at Shady Maple near here December 13. Faith, freedom, and harmony were three words that resonated in the comments of attendees at the podium throughout the evening.

Stoltzfoos encouraged dairymen to “work together in harmony.” He talked about his 36 employees and the fact that, “We are not here without the dairy farmers. We have a passion for the farmers and are supporting DPAC as a way for them to speak up to let their voices be heard.”

These thoughts were echoed by representatives of other agribusinesses who stepped forward in 2010 to financially support the grassroots coalition of dairy producers in its first year of involvement in shaping future dairy policy at the national level and in regard to the state Milk Marketing Law in Pennsylvania.

“We could not have gotten to this point without them,” said DPAC treasurer Bernie Morrissey of the businesses and organizations that added their financial support to the hundreds of donations from individual dairy producers last year. “Now as we go into our second year, we are seeing businesses, organizations, and individual dairymen from more than 20 states showing their support to keep this grassroots coalition moving forward.”

U.S. Congressman Joe Pitts brought news from Washington, along with a message of hope rooted in American ideals.

“There are people around the world who are persecuted. They all love America and



DPAC cream of the crop sponsors joined dairy producer board members and special guests for a holiday dinner provided by E-Zee Milking Equip. and Morrissey Insurance. Front row (l-r): Mike Peachey, Acuity Advisors & CPA's, Lancaster, Pa.; U.S. Congressman Joe Pitts; Bernie Morrissey, Morrissey Insurance, Ephrata, PA; Pennsylvania State Senator Mike Brubaker; Pennsylvania State Representative Gordon Denlinger. Back row (l-r): Brian

Boyd, Mark Hershey Farms, Inc., Lebanon, PA; David Smith, executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association, Lancaster Dairy Farm Automation, Lititz, PA and Hagerstown, MD; Mike Sensenig, Sensenig's Feed Mill, New Holland, PA; Charlie Hooper, Hooper, Inc., Intercourse, PA. Not pictured: Amos Stoltzfoos, E-Zee Milking Equipment, Gordonville, PA.
Photo by Sherry Bunting

what we stand for,” said the Congressman, who was recently named chair of the health subcommittee in the House energy and commerce committee.

Pitts reported there are 87 new members of Congress taking office in January, with a renewed commitment to have more public transparency of the legislative process.

“Good ideas get bipartisan support,” said Pitts. “We will look to DPAC and others for ideas on dairy policy and the upcoming Farm Bill and to bring more transparency to the

milk pricing scheme. Our U.S. dairy industry is very important.”

From the Pennsylvania State Assembly, Senator Mike Brubaker touched on Senate Bill 1480 to reform the state's Milk Marketing Law. He said the best results come “through building coalitions and working with others.”

“I have learned more about these issues because you (dairy producers) chose to be involved in the process,” Brubaker said, adding that DPAC has provided thoughtful, well-

studied information to generate a meaningful discussion on the intent and implementation of the state's Milk Marketing Law.

Rep. Gordon Denlinger echoed Sen. Brubaker's concern about the issue of ‘stranded’ milk premiums paid by consumers and intended for dairy farmers. He, too, referenced the influx of new faces in Harrisburg in January. He also reminded producers that, “We have a job to do to explain ag issues to people and to bring them along to the point of understanding.”

“Controlling
your
own destiny.”

DPAC Dairy Policy Action Coalition

Dairy producers thank these agribusinesses & organizations for their DPAC contributions in 2010!

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DPAC is a coalition of grassroots dairy producers actively participating, with a unified voice, on policies and issues affecting milk pricing.

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Donations payable to:

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