

Farmers Union Members Meet with Legislators on Red Meat Inspection

Custom farm butchers and operators of small slaughterhouses have been given hope that the inspection of red meat in Pennsylvania will continue under state jurisdiction rather than be turned over to federal authorities on July 1.

A Pennsylvania Farmers Union group visiting the state capitol Wednesday was assured by legislative leaders of the House of Representatives that efforts would be made to restore funds to the state budget enabling

State Department of Agriculture officials to continue their inspection program.

Meeting with the group were Representative Martin Mullen (Philadelphia), chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and Brady Ketrick (Mifflin County) chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture and Dairy Industries. Also present were Republican Kent Shelhamer (Columbia County), Republican Frank Kury (Northumberland County) and Republican Percy Foor (Bedford County).

federal inspectors would fail to use reasonable judgment in enforcing the stringent regulations, and that it would result in the shutdown of most small slaughterhouses. Farmers and consumers alike would be the losers, they maintained.

Northumberland County beef

farmer Allen Deiter, who led the delegation, noted that local auction barns would also be forced out of business since they are dependent up on the small butcher. As a result, he said, the disappearance of the local auction would result in lower farm prices since farmers would

be at the mercy of a few large meat packers. Consumers could expect to pay more, he said, because of the same lack of competition.

Wednesday's course of action grew out of a series of local Farmers Union meetings across Pennsylvania in recent weeks in which farmers were encouraged to identify their problems and do something about them. Guy Oakman of McConnellsburg, organization chairman of Pennsylvania Farmers Union, and Forney Longenecker of Lititz, director of organization, have been coordinating the events.

Benefit Auction

There will be an auction sale to benefit children at the Mennonite Children's Home on the Home premises, Millersville, at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 27.

Among items to be sold will be items from the Children's Home, including ice cream parlor chairs, old school desks, and antique items.

Saleable items will be accepted up to the day of the sale. Larger items may be brought after May 22 up to day of sale. Abe Diefenbach will serve as auctioneer

Farmers and butchers serving local markets became alarmed about the inspection program when they learned that Governor Milton J. Shapp had eliminated funds for the service from his budget request for the coming year. The Governor's office said the decision to turn inspection over to federal authorities was made in an effort to save money.

The 20-man Farmers Union delegation disagreed with the Governor's contention by pointing out that taxpayers would pick up the cost of inspection at the federal level also. In addition, they expressed concern that

Loaded Guns Now Banned in Vehicles

An amendment to the Pennsylvania Game Law now prohibits the possession of a loaded firearm in a vehicle.

Previously, the Game Law prohibited having a loaded rifle or shotgun in a vehicle on or along a public highway, but the new amendment is much more inclusive and, in effect, bans loaded firearms of any description from all vehicles anywhere in the commonwealth, with few exceptions.

Under the amendment, a "firearm" is defined as an instrument used in the propulsion of shot, shell, bullet or any other object by the action of gun powder exploded, explosive powder or the expansion of gas therein.

The term "firearm" will include all rifles, shotguns, revolvers, pistols, gas-powered and pneumatic pellet guns, B-B guns (except spring operated), etc.

A firearm is defined as being "loaded" if there is a cartridge or shell or projectile of any description in either the firing chamber or the magazine of the gun.

Some hunters remove the cartridge or shell from the firing chamber but leave one or more cartridge (s) or shell (s) in the magazine, thinking that the gun is "unloaded." This is not the case. All shells or cartridges must be removed from the firing chamber and the magazine before the gun is legally "unloaded."

A loaded firearm may not be in or on any vehicle or conveyance (including a snowmobile) or its attachments while standing, or being driven, within the commonwealth.

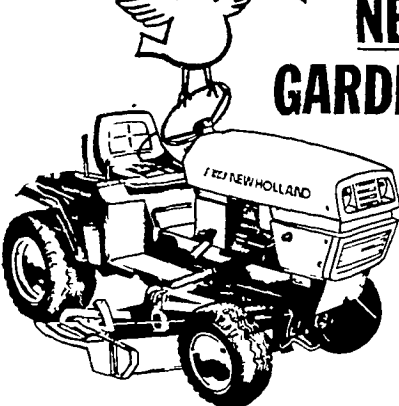
A sportsman who has a permit issued by a county treasurer for the purpose of carrying a han-

dgun for hunting or fishing may not, under the amendment, have the handgun loaded in a vehicle under any circumstances.

The Game Law amendment

does not apply to a person authorized to hunt or trap without a license when the person is on lands on which he resides, such as a farmer.

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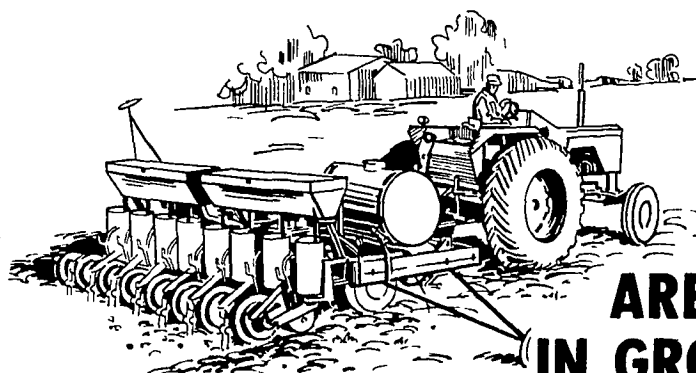
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