



## Washington Report

By U.S. Senator Dick Schweiker

### 'Distressing' Cutback in Rural Aid

I am deeply distressed by the cutbacks that have taken place recently in a number of vital rural programs—including the Farmers Home Administration Disaster Loan Program

These cutbacks come at the worst possible time for rural Pennsylvanians. Hurricane Agnes devastated much of Pennsylvania. Seventy percent of the damage caused by

that storm occurred in Pennsylvania. Rural Pennsylvania was extremely hard hit. This is the wrong time to cut out federal assistance to these courageous people who have fought so hard to get back on their feet again.

One of my recent columns dealt with rural unemployment, America's "invisible problem." In it I discussed several new laws, including

the Rural Development Act, the Farm Credit Act and the Disaster Relief Act, and the positive effect they would have on rural Pennsylvania.

Now I am concerned about the negative effect these recent cutbacks will have. Along with the disaster loan program, a rural electric and telephone loan program, and the rural environmental assistance program were terminated. In addition, significant cutbacks were made in the rural housing program.

I strongly support the President's efforts to achieve a \$250 billion ceiling on federal spending during this fiscal year. But I seriously question cutbacks in these rural programs at this time.

I am particularly distressed over elimination of the FHA Disaster Loan Program. In many cases, the Farmers Home Administration encouraged farmers to delay submis-

sion of applications until spring when they would be better able to judge the extent of their losses and their needs for the up-coming growing season. Many rural residents did exactly what the FHA suggested and only filed applications for the minimum amount of funds they needed last fall. They intended to wait several months to see what their needs were, rather than rushing in and taking advantage of the program by filing applications for more than they might actually need. I have written Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz urging that the program be extended. I particularly asked for sufficient funds to meet the needs of all eligible applicants, so that those who have followed the advice and suggestions of the Farmers Home Administration would not be penalized for their good faith

In addition, the loan guarantees and insurance provided to rural electric and telephone cooperatives by the Rural Electric Administration loan program should be continued. Unfortunately, the recently-enacted Rural Development Act, which I strongly supported, has been used to replace the existing REA loan program. That was never the intent of Congress. The rural development bill is designed to supplement the REA program by making insured loans for commercial, industrial and community development, not to replace REA loans entirely.

I testified recently on behalf of the disaster and REA loan programs before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

### Meet Planned For Vacation Farm Owners

Operators of farms which offer vacations to paying guests have been invited to attend an organizational meeting at 1 p.m., February 28 in the State Agriculture Building here, it was announced by Agriculture Secretary Jim McHale.

Henry E. Wilcox, director of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Markets, said the meeting will determine if farmers want to organize an association which would promote farm vacations, inspect facilities and set standards.

Approximately 100 Pennsylvania farms, most of them in northcentral and northeastern counties, offer vacations which feature actual on-the-farm experiences.

"The State Agriculture Department can't be responsible for farm vacation accommodations," Wilcox said. "I feel that an association which would have the responsibility for setting standards and making inspections would be beneficial to both farmers and vacationers."

# Money Grows on Holsteins with the Beacon TEND-R-LEEN® BEEF FEEDING PROGRAM For Dairy Steers



Write for free booklet "Beacon Tend-R-Leen Beef Feeding Program," also for special feeding program for beef steers.

Beacon now offers a feeding program for dairy steers that takes the roughage out of feeding. It is a research proven program that has been fed successfully in commercial feedlots in the Midwest for over six years.

Get fast, low cost gains without roughage:

- Birth to market in less than a year.
- Daily gains (birth to butcher) of 2.8 lbs.
- Dressing percentage up to 62%.
- Feed conversion approximately 5 lbs. of feed per pound of gain, also from birth to butcher.
- No hay, no grass, no silage.
- Low investment, low labor.
- High grade carcasses; young, tender meat.

Tend-R-Leen is a registered trademark of Doughboy Industries, Inc., New Richmond, Wisconsin.



The Beacon Milling Company, Inc. Headquarters: Cayuga, N. Y.

For full details call your nearest Beacon dealer or Beacon Advisor

**H. Jacob Hooper**  
Intercourse, Pa.

**O. Kenneth McCracken & Son**  
Manheim, Pa.

**H. M. Stauffer & Sons, Inc.**  
Leola, Pa.

**Earl Sauder, Inc.**  
New Holland, Pa.

TEND-R-LEEN® Available Only From The Above Dealers

DEPENDABLY YOURS  
**LOW PRICED GAS**



**We Deliver LP-Gas**

No matter where you live, you can count on us to service LP-Gas needs fast and efficiently.

**AGWAY**

**LP-GAS**

AGWAY Petroleum Corporation  
Box 1197 Dillerville Road  
Lancaster, Pa.  
Dial - 717-397-4954