

Meat Scientists Honored

The nation's meat scientists honored nine of their colleagues at the American Meat Science Assn.'s 28th Annual Reciprocal Meat Conference. The three day Conference, June 16-18, was held on the campus of the University of Missouri.

Three awards were given for Signal Service in the field of Meats: to Harold B. Hedrick, University of Missouri; Donald M. Kinsman, University of Connecticut, and Charles E. Murphy, U.S. Dept. of

Agriculture, Washington, D.C. These coveted "Oscars" of the meat science profession are sponsored by the American Meat Science Assn. in cooperation with the National Live Stock and Meat Board and Townsend Engineering Company. The plaques and watches were presented by retiring AMSA President John Sink of Pennsylvania State Univ.

The Distinguished Meats Research Award went to Ronald H. Locker, Meat Industry Research Institute,

Hamilton, New Zealand. John A. Carpenter, University of Georgia received the Distinguished Meat Teaching Award. The Award for Distinguished Meat Extension-Industry Service was presented to Frank A. Orts, Texas A&M University.

Dr. William C. Sherman, National Live Stock and Meat Board, received a Special Recognition Award on the occasion of his retirement as A.M.S.A. Secretary-Treasurer, a post he has held since 1963. John D. Sink, Pennsylvania State University, and Gary C. Smith, Texas A&M were honored for their service during the past year as AMSA President and Reciprocal Meat Conference Chairman respectively.

The recipients of the Research, Teaching and Extension awards are selected by AMSA members and each award—consisting of a check, plaque and wristwatch—has a meat-science related sponsor. The Eckrich Foundation, Ft. Wayne, Ind., sponsors the Research Award. Armour Food Research Division, Oak Brook, Ill., sponsors the Research Award. Armour Food Research Division, Oak Brook, Ill., sponsors the Teaching Award and Swift Fresh Meats Company,

News from Your State Representative



By Nick Moehlmann
102nd Legislative District

(Editor's Note: This week we begin publication of a new column by Nicholas B. Moehlmann, state representative from the 102nd Legislative District. Rep. Moehlmann will be commenting on bills and happenings in Harrisburg of special interest to residents of this area, and also will be answering questions sent to him by our readers.)

The controversy over medical malpractice insurance will heat up over the next few months. This is likely to be the most complex and bitter issue of the session. The interests of the medical profession and the insurance companies are direct opposites and both sides have the resources to make a good bit of noise. In the end, both sides will have to bend somewhat. Where there are conflicting interests the best solution usually doesn't make anyone very happy.

Medical malpractice insurance is a complex subject and one not susceptible to easy answers.

Three far-reaching proposals have been dropped into the legislative hopper. The first, House Bill 805, is the bill written by the Pennsylvania Medical Society. Most members of the General Assembly are now receiving great stacks of mail in support of House Bill 805. Unfortunately, the bill limits the amount of recovery for injury or death. The limits the bill sets are very low. This is not surprising since the doctors would rather not be sued at all, but the result is that House Bill 805 probably is unconstitutional.

Speaker Herb Fineman has introduced House Bill 1367 which would create a Joint Underwriting Association financed by assessments on all insurers writing health and accident insurance in Pennsylvania. The insurance companies, who would rather get out of the malpractice field altogether, do not find Fineman's proposal amusing.

House Bill 1129, a Republican-sponsored bill, would define malpractice in order to eliminate awards where the patient is simply unhappy with the result. The definition would try to

require that actual negligence be found. House Bill 1129 would also require the Court to secure expert medical witnesses who would not have any connection to the matter at issue and would be presumably neutral.

None of these bills is perfect and, in fact, none of them may be particularly desirable.

Because we felt we would need time to identify the best solution, we have co-sponsored House Bill 1406 which would freeze the malpractice rates at June, 1975 levels. Hopefully, the General Assembly will agree to this so we can avoid the poor legislation which usually results from a panic situation.

The final answer will probably be a combination of the measures new being considered.

(Have a question you want to ask your state representative? Or a bill you want him to comment on, or a topic you would like him to discuss? Rep. Moehlmann will be happy to do so in this column. Questions and comments should be addressed to: Rep. Nick Moehlmann.

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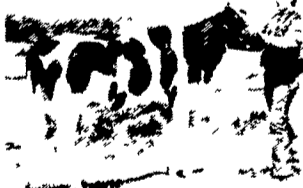
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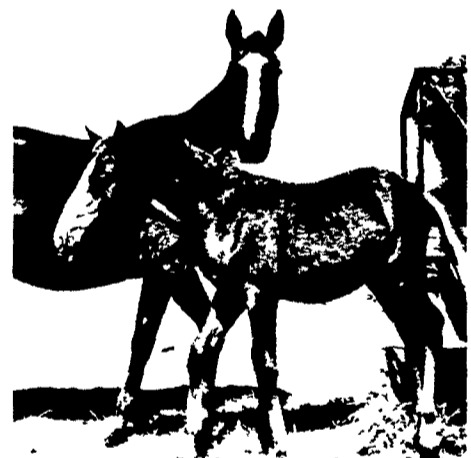
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Grazer's Edge
Livestock operators got a break this year when the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior issued a moratorium on a scheduled increase in grazing fees. Without the moratorium, the fee for grazing on lands administered by Interior's Bureau of Land Management would have gone from \$1 to \$1.51 per animal unit month (AUM), and from \$1.11 to \$1.60 per AUM on Forest Service lands. An AUM is the equivalent of one cow grazing 1 month. About 25,000 livestock operators now hold permits to graze roughly 9 million cattle and sheep — a total of 19 million AUM — on lands administered by the two agencies.