

\$333,109 granted to fairs

HARRISBURG - A total of 17 fairs scattered throughout the state have been awarded \$333,109 in matching funds for capital improvements, it was disclosed by Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Raymond J. Kerstetter.

The money was awarded at a meeting of the Fair Fund Matching Funds Committee May 4, of which Kerstetter is chairman. Applications from 33 fairs for the capital improvement funds were reviewed. Kerstetter noted that since

1971, funds for capital improvements at county fairs have been made available through horse racing proceeds. This year the maximum grant to each county fair was raised from \$15,000 to \$25,000. Funds will be used by the

fairs to construct new buildings, improve the grounds and exhibit spaces and other such improvements.

"County fairs are important to agriculture," Kerstetter said when the funds were awarded. "They are a way for us to compete as farmers to improve the quality of our crops and livestock and to promote a better understanding of rural Pennsylvania and farm life."

Fairs and the sums of money awarded are: Mercer County Grange Fair, \$7,500; Bloomsburg Fair, Columbia County, \$25,000; Hookstown Grange Fair, Beaver County, \$25,000; Manheim Community Fair, Lancaster County, \$25,000; Jefferson County Town and Country Fair, \$25,000; Clearfield County Fair, \$25,000; Albion Area Fair, Erie County,

\$11,400; Jefferson Township Fair, Mercer County, \$9,239; Ephrata Fair, Lancaster County \$1,430.62.

Also, Fayette County Fair, \$25,000; Juniata County Fair, \$25,000; Greene-Dreher-Sterling Fair, Wayne County, \$25,000; Transfer Harvest Fair, Mercer County, \$25,000; Middletown Grange Fair, Bucks County, \$25,000; Jacktown Fair, Greene County \$25,000; Cameron County Fair, \$16,000; and Clarion County Fair, \$12,539.54.

Besides Kerstetter, other

committee members at the meeting were, Sen. Patrick J. Stapleton, chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee; Milo Zimmerman, 1st vice president of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs; E. Neal Mack, secretary-treasurer of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs; Edison W. Osborne, director of the Agriculture Department's Bureau of Markets; and R. Lee Henney, administrator of the Pennsylvania Fair Fund.

Additives considered

WASHINGTON, April 27 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced a proposal to allow additional uses of the additives, sodium caseinate and dried whey, and to formally approve the use of modified whey in certain meat products. The proposal was published in the April 30 Federal Register.

According to USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the three substances - all protein-rich derivatives of milk or cheese - are being considered for use as thickeners in chili, soups, and similar cooked meat products. In addition, sodium caseinate and modified whey are being considered for use as binders in Bockwurst and other sausage-type products on the same basis as other approved USDA binders.

Modified whey would be allowed in sausage in amounts not to exceed 3.5 percent of the finished product weight, and sodium caseinate in amounts not to exceed two percent - which is considered equivalent to 3.5 percent of other binders.

APHIS officials said that sodium caseinate and dried whey already have USDA approval and are used as binders in products such as imitation sausage, soups, and stews. Modified whey does not presently have formal USDA approval. All additives, however, are first approved for use in food by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

USDA approval is required when these substances are to be used in connection with meat and poultry products.

In accordance with federal regulations, the presence of such additives in meat of poultry products must be declared on the label in the ingredient statement, for example, as "Sodium caseinate."

According to APHIS, binders are added to products primarily to hold ingredients together; thickeners give a product a heavier texture. Present meat and poultry inspection regulations state the purpose of such additives as "to bind and extend." Today, these additives are used primarily to bind or thicken; any extension is merely incidental, APHIS said. The terminology in the regulations, therefore, would be updated by today's proposal.

Consumers and other

interested parties are requested to submit written comments concerning the proposed amendment in duplicate to the Hearing Clerk, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Confidential materials or requests for oral presentations should be addressed to the Product Standards Staff, STS, Meat and Poultry Inspection Program, APHIS-USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

The deadline for all comments - written and oral - is July 29, 1976.

Comments will be made available for public inspection in the Office of the Hearing Clerk, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

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