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Congress has idle acreage program

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Senate is speeding through procedures to offer aid to economically distressed farmers. The bill moved ahead on the

agenda on Monday, March 13. Final action on the bill, however, will not come until after a vote has been reached on the Panama Canal Treaty.

The bill, known as S.2690, was introduced into Congress 10 days ago by Senators Herman Talmadge of Georgia and Robert Dole of Kansas. It's aim is to

boost farm income by paying farmers to keep portions of their land idle.

"Farmers are caught up in a savage squeeze between falling prices, rising

production costs and huge over-hanging surpluses," the Georgia senator said at a recent news conference when he introduced the bill.

The Talmadge-Dole bill

would require the Secretary of Agriculture to implement immediately a land retirement program under which farmers will be paid to

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Vet school in trouble

By JOANNE SPAHR
PHILADELPHIA - The School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, like many other state-aided, state-related, and state-owned colleges and universities, is in serious trouble. And, trouble within that school can spell hardship for the farmer as well as all animal owners, in general.

Due to a budget reduction from the state of \$1.2 million late last year (from a proposed \$3.8 million to \$2.6 million), the state-aided veterinary school was plunged into a crisis situation. The major problem at that point was the timing - the cuts came halfway through the fiscal year when the school had already made its financial commitments.

The critical source of concern at the present time stems from Governor Shapp's budget recommendation for 1978-1979 which proposes no increase in appropriations for next year. In other words, the veterinary school will be forced to operate for another year under its present already-too-low level.

"We won't be able to survive," says a concerned Dr. Robert Marshak, dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine. "We're already on an austere budget, and with this cut, we're going to be in serious trouble."

According to Marshak, if a more reasonable appropriation is not made to the college, one of two things will happen - either the quality of the school will go down or it will go out of existence entirely.

There is very little opposition to Marshak's claims. The University of Pennsylvania is recognized as having one of the top three vet schools in the nation along with Cornell in New



Dr. Robert Marshak

York and California University, Davis.

Penn turns out about 100 graduates a year and has educated about 70 per cent of

the veterinarians practicing in the Commonwealth, today.

Along with its reputation for excellence, the veterinary school is also recognized as having the lowest amount of state support of the top three institutions. With its current allotted budget of \$2.6 million, it falls far behind California University, Davis, which receives \$9 million annually. Davis, which has approximately 366 students, also has a student body that is smaller than Penn's 420 students.

Cornell, which is one-third smaller in student body, is supported with \$7 to \$8 million annually.

"So, you see, we're

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Hog industry faces tuberculosis incidents

By DIETER KRIEG
LANCASTER - Swine tuberculosis which on national average is found in about .05 per cent of slaughtered hogs, is occurring at 10 times that rate in some Pennsylvania packing houses. Some of the hog buyers are thinking about pulling away from Pennsylvania markets for that reason, and at least one packer has already limited buying in Lancaster County. At stake is the continued boom in Lancaster County's and surrounding areas' hog production.

Hog producers in the state, and particularly southeastern Pennsylvania are becoming increasingly concerned and are stepping up efforts to bring the situation under control. But it won't be easy and it'll take plenty of cooperation on the part of producers, livestock markets, packers, and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Spearheading the drive against the tuberculosis incidents, are local pork producers and some of the area's packers. Livestock

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Poultry disease hits 100,000 more chickens

LANCASTER - Laryngotracheitis continues to spread in Lancaster County and has reached what is now termed "almost epidemic levels." Just within the past week, two more large poultry flocks contracted the disease, bringing the total number of infected chickens to over half a million.

Poultry specialists are expressing deep concern for recent developments. This news story - the fourth such story since November, and the second in three weeks - reflects the poultry industry's concern.

Although some of the larger flocks in Lancaster County are involved in the outbreaks, poultry officials are stressing precautionary measures to "backyard" flocks as well. They urge each owner of "backyard" flocks to be on the lookout for the disease and encourage vaccination programs.

The two most recent outbreaks occurred in large poultry houses in the Manheim-Mount Joy area. In at least one of those cases, it's strongly suspected that the disease was introduced because of carelessness on

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Named outstanding cooperator was Don Trimble, Peach Bottom R2, seen here with his wife, Carol, son Scott, and daughter, Cindy. Presenting the award was J. Everett Kreider, Lancaster Co. Conservation District Director.

Lancaster County Conservation District honors farmer

By KENDACE BORRY
LANCASTER - Don Trimble and his family were honored as the outstanding cooperator at the Lancaster County Conservation District Cooperators 28th annual meeting and banquet. The Peach Bottom farmer won the award for his achievements in con-

servations practices on his dairy operation.

For a more complete glimpse of the Don Trimbles, see the article included next week in the Lancaster Farming.

Another award given by the district was for outstanding service. Given to Arthur Brown, Nottingham

R1, he was honored for serving as the first chairman of the Lancaster County Soil Conservation District when it was formed in 1950. Involved with conservation practices on his farm for the past 40 years, he and his wife were awarded with an aerial photograph of his farm.

Winners at the plowing contests held as part of the Lancaster County Soil Conservation Day last Summer were given trophies for their achievements. Frank Burkhart, Lancaster, and Richard Binkley, (Turn to Page 38)

Dairy cooperatives scramble for equity

By DIETER KRIEG
LANCASTER - Pressured by lending institutions, and realizing that dead equity piling up is causing financial instability, several dairy cooperatives in the Northeast are now actively engaged in building capital funds. Compounding the situation is a continued increase in milk production, which has burdened many marketing outlets for the past year.

The scramble to build

equity comes in several forms.

At Dairylea, for example, members are being requested to contribute financial clout in the amount of \$1.20 per hundredweight for all the milk they shipped during 1977. Creditors are looking for permanent membership equity - ownership in the cooperative.

Eastern Milk Producers is assessing its members five (Turn to Page 19)

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