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New bill to coordinate fed. agencies

By JOANNE SPAHR
WASHINGTON - A bill which provides for the establishment of a council to coordinate federal agencies and calls for the United States Department of Agriculture to get its house in order has been through final subcommittee hearings of the House Agriculture Committee and will now be marked up on Wednesday.

That bill, known as the "National Consumer Nutrition Information Act of 1978," (H.R. 11761) among other things will establish the National Nutrition Education Council. If formed, this council will review the 31 government programs such as Extension, the Office of Aging, Head Start, as well as HEW's nutrition education program and adult education program, and will come up with policy to coordinate them. At the present time these programs are not evaluated or coordinated, and have no national directors. There is also no connection among the programs.

Along with the review of programs, the council would have the obligation to oversee and review nutrition education programs and determine a method to evaluate them.

This 18-member panel will be made up of six government officials, four individuals involved in the food chain (such as farmers and retailers), four individuals involved in providing nutrition education (such as scientists and educators), and four consumers.

Along with the formulation of the council, the bill calls for the Department of Agriculture to coordinate its own nine uncoordinated programs. Within a year, the USDA will be required to report to the council what their own programs are doing.

The rest of this complex bill calls for the establishment of experimental programs and demonstration projects for the dissemination of nutrition education. These experimental projects will be aimed at reaching a large portion of the population on the subjects of diet, nutrition, and health.

Three types of approaches will be taken with these projects. One type will be community based programs, two of which will be rural. Another type of pilot project

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The newly chosen officers of the Lancaster County Red Rose Future Farmers of America Chapter include: (left to right) Jeff DeLong, vice president; Stephen Hershey, treasurer; Anthony

Eberly, president; Maxine Messner, secretary; Clifford R. Martin, reporter; and Clyde D. Peters, sentinel.

Eberly is Red Rose FFA leader

BROWNSTOWN - Tony Eberly, a junior from Ephrata High School, was chosen to take the reigns of the Lancaster County Red Rose Future Farmers of America chapter on Thursday evening. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Mahlon Eberly, Denver R2, Eberly is also the president of the Red Rose 4-H Beef and Sheep Club.

Serving as vice president under Eberly in the county FFA organization will be Jeffrey DeLong, a junior at Solanco Senior High School. DeLong, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. DeLong, Peach Bottom R2, has previously held the office of reporter in his home chapter.

Holding down the position of secretary in the county organization is the only female officer in the group, Maxine Messner, from Garden Spot High School. Ms. Messner is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald White, 58 Meadow View Dr., Leola.

In the treasurer's position is Stephen Hershey, from Manheim Central High School. Hershey, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hershey, Manheim R5, has previously held the same position in his local chapter.

A second FFA member from Garden Spot High School, Clifford R. Martin, East Earl R1, will take over the role of reporter. Martin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde W. Martin.

Rounding out the list of officers is Clyde Peters, Manheim Central, who is this year's sentinel. Peters is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Peters, Manheim R6.

According to Eberly, who has received the star greenhand and star chapter farmer awards in his chapter as well as the FFA chain steer and chain gilt, earning the position as president of the county group is a goal he has held since a freshman. He has prepared for the role by holding down the same position and that of sentinel in his home chapter.

He is also part of the winning FFA area parliamentary procedure team in which he holds down the position of vice president.

DeLong has been named the star chapter Red Rose Farmer at Solanco and was part of the fourth place 1977 state dairy judging team.

Nitrite case soon decided in court

By KENDACE BORRY
ELIZABETHTOWN - Hopefully, by May 1, a decision will be made on the use of nitrite in bacon. That's the word from Stephen F. Krut, representing the American Association of Meat Processors.

According to Krut, the meat industry had formed the Nitrite Safety Council to gather the information needed to satisfy the USDA about the use of the chemical in bacon. The response for bacon was sent in on March 17.

Covering all forms of research done on bacon concerning the use of nitrite, the report was 1½ inches thick. Now it is up to the USDA to come back with their response.

Krut stated that he suspects that the USDA is leaning towards allowing the meat industry to continue using the controversial chemical, with the addition of blocking agents, such as vitamin C and vitamin E. The use of these will cut down on the chances of nitrites forming nitrosamines, the reaction which the USDA has been concerned about.

It is to be remembered, as was reported in Lancaster Farming before, that nitrite is needed for curing meats such as bacon. It is used to protect against botulism. It gives cured meats their

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Hogs being tattooed, sales remain steady

LANCASTER - Tattooing of market hogs at Lancaster County livestock markets is resulting in business as usual. In fact, hog marketings at Lancaster were up slightly from the week before for both Monday's and Wednesday's activities, and Vintage swine sales on Wednesday were up by 300 over a week earlier. New Holland's volume of market hogs dropped slightly, from 1592 head last week, to 1475 head this week.

Some packers had declared a week ago that they would not visit Lancaster County livestock auctions if market hogs were not being tattooed. But when markets opened on Monday of this week, the buyers and sellers were there and hogs were being tattooed. Business went on as usual.

While tattooing of hogs is strongly recommended by

the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and demanded by a few packers in order to identify the origin of isolated cases of swine tuberculosis, the procedure is frowned upon by some buyers. The extra running around and slapping of pigs is a cause of stress resulting in a drop in quality of the meat, they claim. To operators of the market, the tattooing procedures mean extra expenses and more labor. But as one spokesman for a livestock firm put it: "We're willing to cooperate, we want to work with the producers and get this problem licked."

Last week one buyer reported having received 15 tuberculosis-infected hogs. They allegedly all came from the same farm. Without tattooing that

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Hearing set for animal neglect case

By DIETER KRIEG
HARRISBURG - The businessman from the Washington, D.C. area who has allegedly been underfeeding his cattle has been summoned by both the Pennsylvania State Police and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to appear at a hearing on May 10.

The Department of Agriculture is charging James G. Angelaras, owner of the farm, and previous owner of the cattle, with violations of the Dead Animal Disposal Act. Specifically, Angelaras is charged with allowing dead animals to be on his premises beyond the time limits (48 hours) required by state law before the animal must be disposed of. The State Police will be pressing charges of cruelty to animals. In both cases, the underlying cause is alleged neglect to the extent that cattle died of thirst and starvation. It's a charge which is supported by various neighbors near the farm, located near Gettysburg.

To support its charges, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industries has been conducting tests as well as collecting evidence and affidavits from neighbors who have been complaining

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