

Del. produce-selling law under fire

HARRISBURG -- An unprecedented move by Delaware State Revenue agents to enforce an obscure law against a Pennsylvania farmer selling produce in the neighboring state has brought reciprocal action by State Rep. Noah W. Wenger, R-Lancaster.

As co-sponsor of House Bill 2487 which has been released from the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, Wenger said the legislation

would combat a decision by Delaware Revenue agents to require an eastern Pennsylvania farmer to purchase a license before marketing his unprocessed fruits and vegetables in the state.

"Our sister state decided suddenly to not only execute an old law on its books for the first time but also require the farmer to pay for his previous nine years of doing business in Delaware," Wenger said. "This would amount to

several thousand dollars and small Pennsylvania truck farmers do not have that kind of money. It's a case of discriminatory harassment which could set a dangerous precedent. I am not going to sit by and allow any state to penalize Pennsylvania farmers who attempt to do business in neighboring states."

The 99th District legislator's measure would require all nonresident producers of unprocessed fruits and vegetables doing business in the Commonwealth to obtain a license unless a reciprocal agreement exists between Pennsylvania and the producer's home state.

However, the Pennsylvania Secretary of

Agriculture could waive the licensing requirements if the nonresident's state does not require a similar license from a Commonwealth resident.

"Since last October, we have enlisted the support of Agriculture Secretary Kent Shelhamer, the Pennsylvania Farmers Association and even Delaware State's Agriculture Department in an effort to get the ruling against the farmer overturned by the Delaware Revenue agent, but to no avail," Wenger explained.

"The only concession we could get was a verbal statement that they would not force the farmer to pay the thousands of dollars in back-license fees. This is not

the way to reach agreements between states and, besides, what would stop Delaware from picking on another Pennsylvania fruit and vegetable producer tomorrow?"

"We are pushing to have

H.B. 2487 considered by the entire House membership as soon as possible so that it can be sent to the Senate and then signed into law before the 1977-78 Session of the General Assembly ends," Wenger said.

Feed short course attended

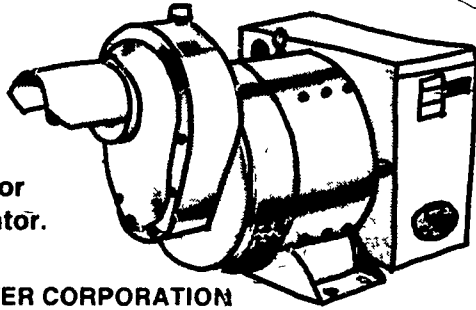
LANCASTER -- Tim Horn, Director of Livestock Nutrition at Pennfield Corporation, is one of 52 feed industry employees from 45 companies in 18 states and 10 foreign countries who attended Kansas State University campus through June 16 participating in the Feed Manufacturing Technology Short Course.

The purpose of the three-week short course, sponsored by the university and the American Feed Manufacturers Association, is to provide those persons with some experience in the feed manufacturing industry with a better appreciation of the basic theories and concepts of the feed industry and to increase their knowledge of current industry practices. Course work is being conducted on the KSU campus, utilizing

the University's pilot feed mill, laboratories and classroom facilities. The group is also scheduled to make field trips to nearby industry plants.

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