

Horse breeder

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industry from the Capitol building in Harrisburg.

Taxes and the operation of the purse funds of the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Association are behind the cause of the mounting turbulence.

State tax laws in Pennsylvania grant agriculture operations exemptions from the sales tax levy on production inputs, like fertilizer, equipment, feeds.

But, a fine-line legal interpretation of that sales tax law has barred operations like the Hanover horse breeding stables from the benefit of that exemption. Hanover, and other similar breeding farms, are angry over what they feel is an unjust and discriminatory sales tax interpretation. While they tolerated the situation for some time, now they've begun to fight.

"We're agriculture, we belong to farmer associations," emphasizes John Simpson. "Our business is with horses, pasture, grass, feed. We are an animal breeding and marketing organization."

Because Pennsylvania laws consistently refuse to recognize them as an agriculture business, Hanover pays a six per cent sales tax on everything hay, straw, oats, semen, machinery, fuels, even materials to fix the barns.

State-related disagreements, however, don't stop at the tax bureau. There's also the problem of low purses (money winnings) in a

racing category known as the "sire stakes."

"Sire stakes" are race categories open only to the offspring of sires standing in service in the state operating a track. Pennsylvania sire stakes, for example, are open only to competing horses bred by sires standing in stud right here in the state.

Each state divides up differently the funds it receives from "breakage," a small amount of the money not paid back to bettors who win in pari-mutuel wagering. Some of the funds are used for various state projects, while other monies are plowed back into racing purses.

Racing in Pennsylvania is managed under the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission. In 1977, over 13 million dollars of the pari-mutuel breakage funds were dispersed from the Commission to various state departments. The Philadelphia School District got over 4.5 million, the Department of Commerce claimed almost two million for assorted projects and the state's General Fund received a share of over 6.5 million, earmarked toward projects like water, sewer and access road facilities in boroughs and townships with populations of less than 12,000.

Therefore, most of the Pennsylvania funds go into various types of government funding - very little goes

Uses for Roundup herbicide expanded

ST. LOUIS, Mo. - Monsanto Company has received Environmental Protection Agency registration acceptance expanding the use of Roundup herbicide. The new uses include:

-Spot treatment in corn,

soybeans, wheat, oats, barley, grain sorghum, and cotton. Either hand-held or boom equipment may be used.

-Applications after last harvesting of asparagus up

until one week prior to emergence.

-For sugarcane, Roundup may be applied prior to planting, to remove last stubble or ratoon cane, and as a spot treatment in growing cane to control weeds or diseased cane.

-For all labeled tank mixtures used on minimum tillage corn and soybeans, one quart of Roundup may be used when annual weeds are less than six inches tall. The minimum rate previously labeled was 1.5 quarts regardless of weed size.

Roundup is a foliar-applied, non-selective herbicide sprayed when weeds have reached a vigorous stage of growth. When applied directly to foliage, it translocates throughout the plant, destroying above and below-

ground plant tissues, including the reproductive root system of perennial weeds. Application rates and timing will vary according to the weed species being treated.

Many emerged nuisance weeds such as Bermudagrass, Bindweed, and Rhizome Johnsongrass can be controlled with one application of Roundup where several herbicides and frequent treatments may have been needed before.

Since Roundup will not control seeds or unemerged weeds, the use of a label approved seedling weed control herbicide or other seedling control measures are recommended by Monsanto to help prevent the re-establishment of annual and perennial weeds from seed.

back to the racing competitors, notes Simpson. In states like New York and New Jersey, though, a large portion of that breakage is turned back into purse money to be paid to race winners, especially in the sire stakes categories.

So, Pennsylvania horse breeders are losing growing amounts of business in service fees, and in breeding stock sales. Customers are instead turning to neighboring states who offer more potential winnings to home-sired offspring.

At Hanover, the problem is turning into a genuine economic concern for John Simpson. Like all economic battles, the war will ultimately be waged on the battleground of the check-book.

In an attempt to outflank the enemy of tax disparity and low purse returns, whispers of moving float through the ranks at Hanover Shoe Farms.

"Never before have we sent so many mares out of state to be serviced," ponders Simpson. "There are altogether 87 mares standing in four other states and Canada, making their off-

spring eligible for higher-stakes competition than right here at home."

"Now, you know what that means?" he queries. "That means less horses stabled here, with less hay, less straw, less grain, less locally-purchased inputs to be bought."

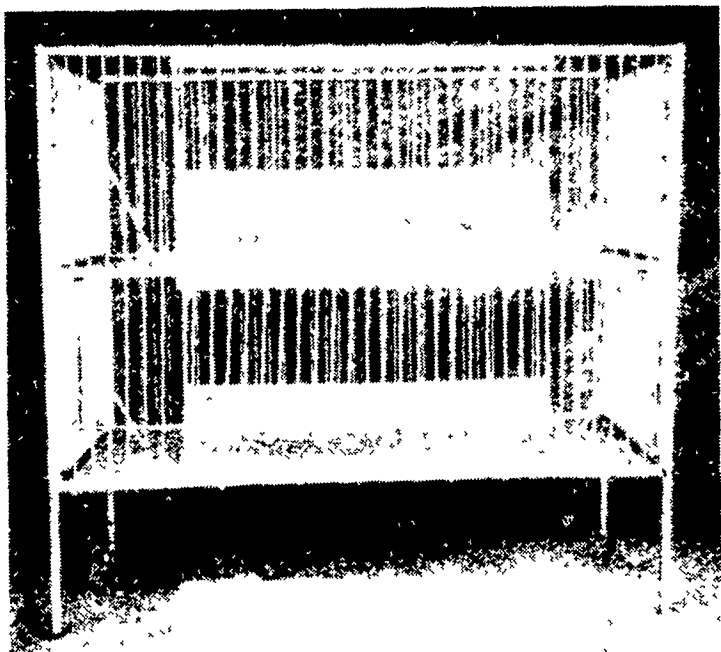
Hanover currently employs 85 men. A cutback in the present horse population of 1391 head means less work, lost jobs, less taxes paid, less money all-around to be spread throughout the entire local business community.

"With the finest group of horses in the world here at Hanover," says Simpson, we help stimulate the export trade for the state. It not only helps the national balance of trade, but it helps boost the Pennsylvania economy."

No one at Hanover even wants to think about leaving Adams County and Pennsylvania with its rich soil and an environment that's nurtured the harness racing greats. But if the tax battle is lost, for John Simpson and others, it may be the only path of retreat.



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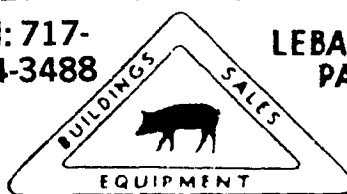
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