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Farm marketing bill advances with organized support

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Leaders of the nation's foremost farm organizations testified jointly on Tuesday in unanimous support of a legislative proposal to give farmers more clout in negotiations with "middlemen" in the agricultural marketplace. The testimony was presented in Room 1302 of the Longworth House Office Building, here in the nation's capitol.

Those who endorsed the National Agricultural Bargaining Act of 1979 (H.R. 3535) before a House Agricultural Subcommittee were: National Grange

Master John Scott, American Farm Bureau Federation President Allan Grant, National Farmers Union President Tony Dechant and National Council of Farmers Cooperatives President Kenneth Naden.

The bill requires handlers of agricultural commodities to bargain in good faith with associations of farmers with respect to prices and other items in the sale of farm products. The legislation defines "unfair practices" in the purchase and marketing of farm commodities, and prohibits both handlers and

associations of producers from employing "unfair" tactics.

Advocates of the proposal, introduced by Representative Leon Panetta (D-Cal.) with 22 co-sponsors, contend its enactment would provide a climate for improved farm income, stabilized prices and assured supplies for consumers, and increased efficiency in the market system.

The marketing and bargaining legislative package was hammered out by the four leading organizations, a number of

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Which cow is the tallest? Ron Buffington, right, of Select Sires, who works with the aAa program, says it's the cow which toes out. He spoke to a gathering of more than 160 people at the Chester County Holstein Field Day. George Lamborn, left, and his family were host.

Mechanically deboned meat labeling challenged

By KENDACE BORRY
ELIZABETHTOWN - "Mechanically Processed (Meat) Product Contains Up To _____ Percent Powdered Bone."

As consumers shopping in the supermarket, people may have noticed that notice carried on a meat label. And according to the American Association of Meat Processors, most consumers simply walk away such a meat product, finding it unappealing and unappetizing.

"There is absolutely nothing wrong with mechanically deboned meat," Steven Krut,

assistant executive director of the AAMP stressed. "The meat is mechanically sliced, and small quantities of bone is picked up."

"But every time you slice meat, you get slivers of bone," he continued. "And it is dissolved as it is consumed. There is no harm in the product."

"The main advantage of mechanically deboned meat, (commonly known as MDM) is that it saves labor costs. And labor is a big figure in meat processing."

Krut told that the USDA estimates that 335 million pounds of beef and 309 million pounds of pork could

be utilized by the MDM method. But due to the label that the USDA forces such meat to wear, there is very little market for the product. And the meat is not used.

"Poultry and fish have been on the market for years, using this method," Krut stated. "It has consumer acceptance, and it presently isn't forced to wear the label that red meat is. There's no reason to change those labels, but mechanically deboned beef had consumer acceptance at one time also. Why should it have to carry such a label?"

The label in question is the

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Chester Holstein field day highlights trait selection

By DIETER KRIEG
NOTTINGHAM - The Chester County Holstein Club held its annual Summer Field Day on Thursday night, drawing some 160 people to the event which was held at the George Lamborn farm, near here. Guest speaker was Ron Buffington of Select Sires who gave a lengthy presentation on sire and cow analysis programs. Buf-

fington, who has been close to the dairy industry all of his life delivered his comments in the smooth-flowing, rapid-fire style of a crack show judge. The descriptive terms never stopped, thus enabling the breeders to picture the animals in their minds. At one point of the program, however, the former Pennsylvania farm boy used four cows to show his audience exactly what he

means and how he evaluates the bovine species.

A specialist in the field of genetics and breeding, Buffington is associated with the aAa (Animal Analysis Associates) program. He is in his fifth year with the service. "It's awfully important making the right matings," he said. To that end he encourages dairymen to have visitors to their

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Jerry Swarr is happy to be getting into the hog business with a system which he believes will save costs. He's putting the finishing touches on his Nebraska Unit, which is coupled to a high-moisture corn feeding program.

Energy savings are goal of new hog operation

By DIETER KRIEG
MOUNT JOY - A young Lancaster County farmer is getting into the hog business with the costs of energy very much in mind. With fuel expenses skyrocketing, Jerry Swarr of Mount Joy R1 does not want to be caught in any more of a squeeze than absolutely necessary. For that reason he chose to a Nebraska Unit for his swine raising adventure, and he'll be feeding them high moisture corn in order to

save the expense of drying corn.

The young farmer expects to go into business by the end of next week. But first he'll host an Open House at the Swarr farm on Wednesday. The facility is located just east of Route 283, north of the Manheim - Mount Joy Road, along Breneman Road.

Before deciding on the Nebraska Unit and the high moisture corn system, Swarr visited other farms in

Pennsylvania and the Midwest. He liked what he saw. A presentation at last February's Keystone Pork Congress in Hershey put the icing on the cake. Swarr was convinced the combination was his best alternative.

"I looked it over and began to push a pencil to it," Swarr began, "and it became obvious that with the energy situation, this is the way to go." Since there are no electrical fans in the

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