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Local horse racks up blue at Penn National

BY SHEILA MILLER

HARRISBURG — This year's Pennsylvania National Horse Show wraps today with \$10,000 Grand Prix De Penn National. This sale concludes a nine-day event packed with competition between some of the nation's finest horses and riders.

A number of local equestrians will be coming home with numerous ribbons from this prestigious show. Bringing home a blue ribbon in the Amateur Five-Gaited Saddle Horse class is Jean Ramsay, Lancaster.

Aboard her 7-year-old American Saddlebred gelding, Grand Larceny, Jean rode to the top of her class, out-showing a field of 15 outstanding competitors on Thursday evening.

This is not the first win for Ramsay's horse, called Rufus. He was pinned the champion American Saddlebred 5-Gaited Horse in two other states, Ohio and New Jersey. And, he also was tagged champion at the recent Fall Show held at Quentín, Lancaster County.

Ramsay said she has been riding horses for 30 years —

and she emphatically stated she's always been aboard American Saddlebreds.

Currently in her stable at Windridge Farm, Jean has two of her favorite breed of horses — Grand Larceny, and an 8-year-old pleasure mare, Hazel Gemini.

Ramsay, who works as a secretary in Lancaster General Hospital's Durg and Alcohol Clinic, said she is on the show road from April through November. The last show for her this year is the November 4-9 show at Madison Square Gardens in New York City. She mentioned she is quite excited about going to this show because she is one out of 35 of the nation's top horses and riders selected to compete.

In the Thursday afternoon show, Ramsay rode another local horse to third place honors in the ESHBA American Saddlebred Three-Gaited Pleasure Horse Class. She was astride A Lovely Decision, a 6-year-old mare owned by Melanie Lipensky of Lebanon.



Pam Wunderlich, Lebanon, and her American Saddlebred mare Genius Jane brought home honors during competition at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show, held October 17 to today at the Farm Show Complex.

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Milk plan draft in final stages

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
HARRISBURG — The initial draft of Pennsylvania's proposed milk marketing promotional program is expected to be ready for distribution during the coming week.

"The draft is in its final preparation and is being reviewed by department officials," according to James Sumner, Director, Bureau of Markets, State Department of Agriculture.

The draft will be distributed to representatives of various co-ops, independent producers and statewide farm

organizations who met late last month as an informal committee to begin work on the proposed program.

Following receipt of the draft, the different groups will review the various proposals in preparation for a second meeting of the informal committee. This second meeting, at which groups will offer comments on the program and consider any additions, deletions or revisions, is expected to be held in the first week of November.

Several co-ops have been in contact with the PDA since the first committee

meeting to amplify their positions on the proposed program, Sumner said. Their positions have not appreciably changed from those expressed at the first meeting held on September 30.

Following the completion of a final draft, the PDA would give notice of a public hearing on the proposed program.

The actual referendum vote among producers is not expected to be held until about late-January of 1981, with the final tally of votes not being made until approximately March.

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Carter mushroom tariff surprises area growers

BY CURT HARLER
WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Jimmy Carter's decision last week to impose stronger tariffs on imported mushrooms has caught farmers by surprise.

While a number of farm groups sought relief from foreign imports for mushroom growers, most had asked for import quotas. The stepped-up tariffs caught most producers by surprise.

Tariffs currently are 13 percent of the sale price of mushrooms. They will increase to 33 percent next year, decreasing to 28 percent and then 23 percent in the following two years.

Carter rejected quotas. The tariffs apply to mushrooms canned, frozen or in jars. Fresh or dried mushrooms are not included.

The actual base tariff of 3.2 cents remains.

As of November 1, the current 10 percent ad valorem tax, imposed on the invoice value of product, will jump to 30 percent plus the base 3.2 cents. The ad valorem tax drops to 25 percent the next year and 20 percent the last year of the tariff.

Most farmers and farmer groups, used to thinking in terms of pounds of mushrooms and quotas were taken back by the tariff idea.

No one was able to say exactly what the increased tariff would do to import volume. While the tariff represents a significant increase over the existing tariff, there is no assurance that a 20 percent boost in tariff rates will mean a 20 percent drop in foreign mushrooms entering the country—or any drop in imports at all.

Pennsylvania Farmers' Union noted the tariff was

unrelated to the domestic cost of production or any parity index in mushrooms.

Also disturbing to PFU was the idea of having all revenues from the tariff go to the U.S. Treasury and none to helping domestic producers.

But Farmers Union said it was glad the President did something, pointing out President Carter was not obliged to do anything at all.

Farmers Union said it is difficult to know what effect the tariff will have, adding the group hopes the administration imposed the tariff knowing what the outcome would be.

Pennsylvania Farmers' Association was not so optimistic.

"We don't think it will solve the problem. If they have a lot of mushrooms over there why not pay some

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Humans squawk for better barn conditions

Animal rights movement disrupts barnyard

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ

LANCASTER — Farmers already must deal with a small army of state and federal inspectors sticking their heads into their bulk tanks and milking machines.

But the day may not be too far away when inspectors will be more concerned about healthy conditions for animals than for people.

There is a new movement in the U.S. now known as the Animal Rights Movement.

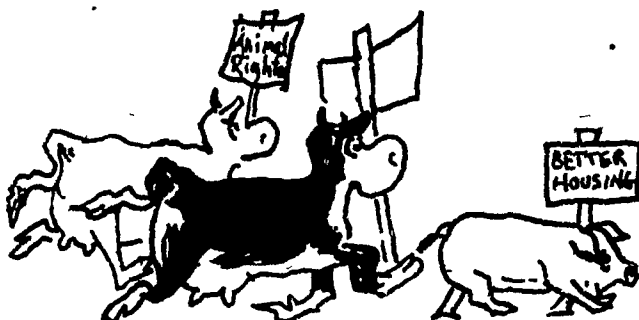
Though at first it was the basis for a lot of good jokes — the best being the one about chickens marching around with picket signs — it no longer can be described as something that "may" cause trouble for poultry and livestock industries in the U.S.

Instead it is a growing problem for which producers need to find answers.

One such gathering took place last Monday night at the Holiday Inn in Lancaster. Ninety-one poultry servicemen

and farmers grouped to discuss the critical influence such supporters of animal rights may have.

Dr. Dale Schwindaman, senior staff veterinarian of Veterinary Service, USDA in Hyattsville, Md., spoke to the group on exactly what it is the supporters of animal welfare want to change.



What concerns welfarists most is the intensive confinement production of farm animals. Crowding livestock and poultry in pens leads to unnatural behavior and to distress for these animals, they claim.

The movement is centered in the Institute for the Study of Animal Problems, in Washington D.C., and is directed by Dr. Michael Fox, the head of the Institute, which is a division of the Humane Society of the United States.

This organization is against many agricultural practices. The first few, which are of great concern to the poultry producers, are commercial egg production cage management systems, feeding and watering procedures, broiler production units, debeaking and poor ventilation.

Other practices the organization would like to see changed are: tail docking, total confinement and farrowing pens for hogs, veal calf husbandry and feed lot finishing of beef

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