Legislative roundup

(Continued from Page A1)

the existing Ag Lands Condemnation Approval Board as referee in condemnation cases.

Participation in an ag area would be available voluntarily to landowners within the jurisdiction of any governing body.

"Addition or deletion of land in the agricultural area shall only occur after seven years or whenever the agricultural area is subject to review by the local governing body," the bill now reads. Prior versions provided an eight year review.

Landowners who wish to withdraw their land from an ag area "shall notify the local governing unit of their intent at least 120 days before the end of the seventh year," HB 143 specifies.

The bill now requires individual written notice be given to all municipalities in an ag area, the proposed condemnor, and the owners of the land proposed to be condemned, should an agency wish to take land located in an ag district.

The bill has the support of the State Grange, Pennsylvania Farmers' Association, and Farmers Union

On Monday, Rep. David R Wright, Clarion, introduced an amendment to the Ag Commodities Marketing Act which is supported by 17 co-sponsors and the Farmers Union

The measure would change current procedure on voting for commodity checkoffs, promotions, and similar programs in several significant ways:

First, it would eliminate block voting by cooperatives;

Second, it would require a two-thirds majority by number, rather than a simple majority, for passage of a checkoff;

Also, it would reduce the review period for such programs from five to three years

Checkoff programs in Pennsylvania date back to the Apple Marketing Act of 1961 (Act 179), amended in 1968 to include all commodities

Act 63, passed in March 1970, changed the majority vote requirement to a two-thirds vote. The next year Act 102 rolled voting back to a simple majority, allowed block voting, and established a five year lifetime for orders.

While Farmers Union is strongly behind the measure, the Grange and some co-ops — especially dairy co-ops — can be expected to oppose Wright's bill

Also in the works is specific language for a multiflora rose bill Lawmakers expect to have that completed by April 1.

Current thinking is to establish a noxious weed review board, along the lines of the one defeated last year

But the new bill would include language to declare both multiflora rose and autumn olive noxious weeds immediately, says Grange Master Charles Wismer

Still sidelined is SB 151, Clarence F Manbeck's Family Farm Security Bill At present, lawmakers are looking for a way around asking $10 million from the general fund A bond float to support the Fredericksburg senator's program seems to have the upper hand right now

Lehigh Valley to meet

ALLENTOWN — Bylaw changes aimed at insuring adequate board representation for increasing numbers of milk shippers will be considered by common stockholders and members of Lehigh Valley Farmers at the dairy's annual meeting March 19 in Lancaster

Proposed changes would allow the board of directors discression in forming new districts and would allow flexibility in determining the need for at-large directors.

Initially, the plan would accomodate a block of shippers in the New York area where numbers have grown from 43 to 68 in the past 18 months.

Another proposed change would require the annual meeting of each district be held during the first three weeks of November. Currently the district meetings are held just prior to the stockholders' meeting.

Members also will hear "bottom line results" of a major restructuring of the dairy which took place at last year's meeting

Farm Calendar

(Continued from Page A12)

Ladies Day Out, 9 a m , Springs Valley Inn, Avondale

Inter-State District 5 annual meeting, noon, Willow Valley Restaurant

Solanco FFA banquet, 7 p.m., high school cafeteria

Lehigh Farmers annual meeting, Host Farm, Lancaster.

Northern Lebanon FFA banquet, 7 p.m , high school cafeteria

Cambria-Somerset Forage Day, 9:30 a.m -3 p.m , Solomon Run Fire Hall, near Johnstown

Eastern members special meeting, 1 p.m , Blue Ball Fire Hall.

Cumberland County Holstein tour to Maryland Eastern Shore, 7 45 a.m

Friday, March 20

Pa State Guernsey Assn annual meeting, Host Farm Resort, concludes tomorrow.

Eastern Lancaster County FFA banquet, 6:45 p m , Blue Ball Fire Hall

Corn-agronomy production meeting, 10.30 a m -3 p m , Wysex Presbyterian Church

Manheim Young Farmers Banquet, 7 p m , Mastersonville Fire Hall

Saturday, March 21

Pa State Ayrshire Club meeting, Carlisle

Third Blue Halter Guernsey Calf Sale, followed by 50th Anniversary Sale, 12 30 p m , Guernsey Sales Pavilion

Bucks County Unit of NFO annual dinner, Plumsteadville Fire House, 7 p m.

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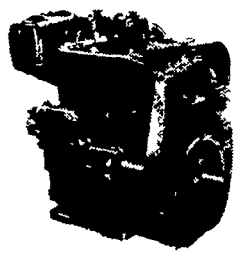

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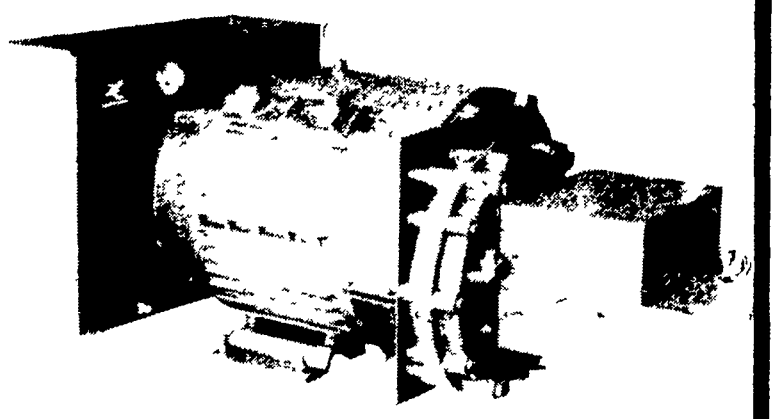

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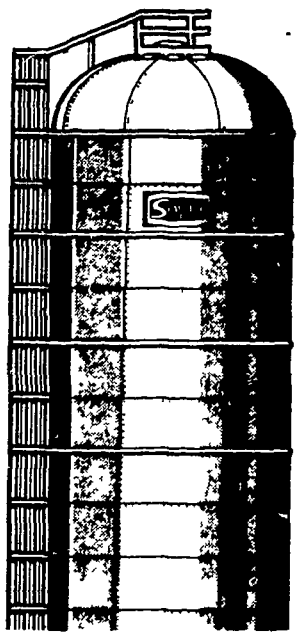

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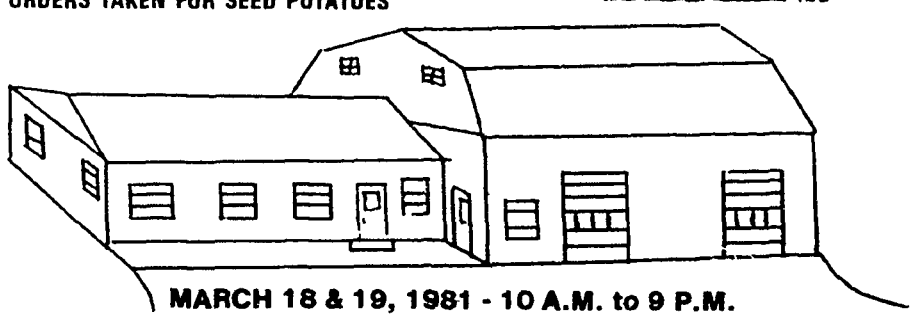

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