From one ag secretary to another

# Caravan of coolers delivers ham

HERSHEY — A caravan of ten tractor trailers loaded with milk coolers rolled into the parking ot here at the Hershey Motor Lodge on Sunday evening. Along with their precious cargo of stainless steel dairy equipment, the truckers delivered a Missouri ham from the state's Department of Agriculture Secretary Jim

Boillot to Pennsylvania's Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell.

According to lead driver Bill Johnston, who presented the ham to Hallowell, the caravan left Missouri at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning, drove the 1000 miles to Pennsylvania through rain and fog, and arrived in Hershey at 6:30



Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell accepts a Missouri ham presented by lead driver Bill Johnson — a gift from Missouri's Secretary of Agriculture Jim Boillot. The ham traveled interstate with a caravan of milk coolers. Looking on is Jim Wickersham, director of marketing for the Paul Mueller Company.



The Mueller Company shipped in a cargo of milk coolers ordered by Pennsylvania farmers valued at \$700,000. The company delivered the coolers as part of an energy saving effort

saving Keystone state customers about \$40,000 in freight expenses. Company distributors for the Northeast met in Hershev this week.

p.m. on Sunday. The cross-country trip was part of the Paul Mueller Company's efforts to save money for their distributors and the farmers they serve

In order to save energy, the Missouri-based company decided to take annual meetings and workshops to their distributors instead of having the distributors

workshops for the Northeast were held this week in Hershey.

Since Pennsylvania farmers had ordered the company's coolers and since the company's personnel were traveling to the Keystone state, Mueller officials decided to transport the coolers freight free,

travel to the Springfield plant. The amounting to savings of about \$40,000, according to a company spokesperson. A total of 27 truck loads made the trip - representing a \$700,000 investment by Pennsylvania dairy producers.

> The Mueller Company is one of the world's largest manufacturers of milk coolers for farm use. - SM

## Follow safe food buying

LITITZ - With the cost of food soaring skyward, selecting food that is fresh and safe is essential. For most consumers, this process begins at the supermarket.

Miss Trudy Dougherty, extension home economist of The Chester County Cooperative Extension Service offers some food safety guidelines to follow. Whenever possible, check "open dates" for product freshness she stresses. Avoid products that show any signs of food spoilage as indicated below:

Frozen food:

Old packaging indicates food may have been stored long enough to have deteriorated in color. flavor, texture and nutritive value.

Excessive frost indicates product has thawed and been refrozen, again lessening quality.

A broken package probably means contents are dried and discolored.

#### Meat:

Ready-to-eat hams, stored along the edges of refrigeration units may have been exposed to undesirably high temperatures and therefore contain excessive amounts of bacteria.

Buy canned hams that say they should be refrigerated only if they are displayed in refrigerated storage units.

### Canned food:

Do not buy:

Cans or jars with bulging ends (the exceptions are beer and carbonated beverages); this includes cans with bulging lids caused by severe dents.

Cans or jars with visible signs of leakage.

Pull-top containers with obvious cracks on lid, or glass containers showing signs of loosening or opening of closures.

Badly rusted cans with deep pits ) near point of perforation. Canned foods that contain only slight dents with only slightly crushed sides are generally safe. Also acceptable are cans with small rustspots easily removed without damage to the

#### Fresh fruits and vegetables:

Avoid moldy or rusty fruits and vegetables even if only a small amount of mold is present. Signs of mold indicate it has already penetrated the food

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