

Legislative roundup

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PFA policy supports that action, although not the previous two changes.

Outgoing House Ag Chairman Roy W. Wilt requested the public hearing to give farmers a chance to speak out on the issue. No date was set for the hearing.

"We feel the sole right to vote in a mandatory advertising program should be in the hands of the individual farmer, and not the executive board of some organization," said PFU Legislative Chairman Jack Philson, R4 Mercer.

But Milk Marketing, Inc.'s John Walker told lawmakers there is no need for change. "The present law is adequate," he said.

Inter-State Director Daniel Martin, Manheim, delivered a strongly worded statement against HB 767 to the Committee.

"If there is something wrong with block voting, then there is something wrong with our entire representative system of government," he said.

Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell, on the Hill to push for an administrative measure to consolidate 14 existing food laws into one law, said he hopes the legislature, in considering HB 767, will act in the best interest of all farmers.

"We are going to urge our membership to write to the Ag Committee to get this bill passed," said Farmers Union's James J. Graci.

Welfare reform tied up the legislators this week and will be back on the calendar next week, too.

But once the welfare package is taken care of farmers likely will see action on HB 143, the ag areas bill.

HB 143 is on the calendar for third reading, but probably will be held back until the welfare package—a strongly partisan issue—is resolved.

Washington lawmakers, meantime, are sorting out several measures introduced in the U.S. Senate for consideration in determining the 1981 Farm Bill.

SB 943, the Reagan Administration's version of the Farm Bill, was introduced by Jesse Helms. But the Southern Senator already had indicated where his feelings lie last Tuesday when he introduced his own Farm Bill, SB 884.

The 99 pages of SB 884 have several differences from the Administration package.

Most important to local farmers is the dairy support measure, which SB 884 says should range between 75 percent and 90 percent of parity with semi-annual adjustments.

The Reagan measure sets a 70 percent parity base and calls for price determination using the five-year average market price.

Helms's SB 884 also would reinstate the wool program, at present levels, for another four years. Reagan's bill does not.

The legislative drafting session, or mark-up, on the Farm Bill is scheduled to begin Monday, April 27.

Helms says his goal is to have a bill to report out of Committee by May 15.

Likewise there are a number of Farm Bill measures floating around the U.S. House, one with Administration support.

Sorting out their provisions took much of the House Ag Committee's time this week, with most of the grain, tobacco, and other crops programs completed this week.

Order 2 March milk set at \$13.20

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Dairy farmers who supplied milk plants regulated under the New York-New Jersey marketing orders during March will be paid on the basis of a uniform price of 13.20 per hundredweight (28.4 cents per quart).

Market Administrator Thomas A. Wilson also stated that the uniform farm price per hundredweight was 13.46 in February 1981 and 12.08 in March 1980. The uniform price is a marketwide weighted average of the value of farm milk used for fluid and manufactured dairy products.

The seasonal incentive fund removed 20 cents per hundredweight from the dairy far-

mers' uniform price for March, a total of \$1,928,034.54. Deductions will continue through June and will be returned in the August through November uniform price calculations.

A total of 17,601 dairy farmers supplied the New York-New Jersey Milk Marketing Area with 964,017,269 pounds of milk during March 1981. This was an increase of 4.6 percent (about 42 million pounds) from last year. The gross value to dairy farmers for milk deliveries was \$129,970,026.22.

Wilson said this included differentials required to be paid to dairy farmers but not voluntary premiums or deductions authorized by the farmer.

Regulated milk dealers (handlers) utilized 399,572,917 pounds of milk for Class I 41.4 percent of the total. This milk is used for fluid milk products such as homogenized, flavored, low test and skim milks. For March 1981, handlers paid 14.89 per hundredweight (32.0 cents per quart) for Class I milk compared with 13.62 a year ago.

The balance, 58.6 percent, was used to manufacture Class II products including butter, cheese, ice cream and yogurt. For this milk, handlers paid 12.62 per hundredweight.

All prices quoted are for bulk tank milk received within the 201-210 mile zone from New York City.

Farm Show

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"There are cracks and dips in parts of the building that are 50 years old," Hallowell said, "but there's no reason to think it is due to the water."

Benedict had said at his news conference that "the condition may have irrevocably undermined the entire complex."

Moving to the matter of the

abolishment of the job of Fire Marshall, Hallowell said that the Department of Labor and Industry had determined that it was no longer needed.

"Before the fire renovations in the complex, the Department of Labor and Industry had required a fire marshall," Hallowell said.

"With the renovations, such as the construction of a fire tunnel and installation of heat sensors and smoke detectors which are connected directly to the Harrisburg Fire Department, Labor and Industry said the marshall was no longer needed."

Hallowell went on to explain that training was given to security personnel.

"We are still very anxious to protect the public and we are just doing it with other personnel instead of just one man," Hallowell said.

"We are always looking for hazards and seeing that fire exits are open and not blocked."

"We've always placed a high

priority on protection of the public and with the automatic sprinkler and sensor system, a better and more sophisticated protection is being provided."

Hallowell pointed out that on the opening day of Farm Show one of the heat sensors had registered at the Harrisburg Fire Department and firemen were at the complex in a matter of minutes.

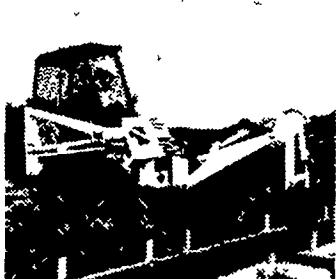
"The firemen were not needed," he said, "but it illustrates how much more quickly a response can now be made."

"Generally, we have gotten a lot of favorable comments about the Farm Show and other events and the overall management of the complex is pretty good."

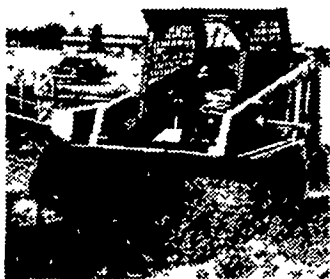
"With 100 temporary employees, 50 permanent employees, 100,000 visitors, 2,000 animals and other things, it becomes a real test of management."

"And we've received complimentary letters, ranging from equipment dealers to people involved in the dog show."

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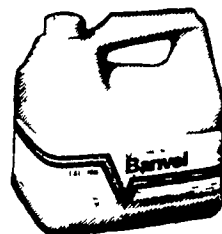
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