

## Two counties gain, five slip in brucellosis battle

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In the continuing battle against brucellosis, one county in Utah and one in Idaho were declared certified free of the disease this month by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

At the same time, five counties in Florida, Georgia and Texas lost their certified-free status, according to Paul Becton, the veterinarian who directs the brucellosis program for the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

When counties gain certified-free status, cattle move from them with fewer restrictions.

The new certified-free counties are Franklin in Idaho and Garfield in Utah. Those losing their certified-free status and dropping to modified-certified are Seminole County, Fla.; Fannin, Franklin and Habersham Counties, Ga.; and Hansford County, Texas.

Two-thirds of the nation's counties and 31 entire states, plus the U.S. Virgin Islands, are certified free, Becton said. All but four counties in Florida, two Louisiana parishes, and Yellowstone National Park are modified-certified.

There are 1,096 counties in 19 states, plus Puerto Rico, in modified-certified status.

Brucellosis, sometimes called Bang's disease in animals, is a bacterial disease of cattle, swine and other animals, and can be transmitted to people.

Human brucellosis, sometimes called undulant fever, is debilitating but treatable. It is an occupational hazard for butchers, livestock producers and others who come in contact with infected animals or their freshly killed carcasses.

Raw or unpasteurized milk also can be a source of human infection.

The four Florida counties still listed as non-certified are Charlotte, Hardee, Highlands, and Okeechobee. Still non-certified in Louisiana are Caremon and Lafourche parishes.

To become certified brucellosis-free, a county must have no in-

fection at time of certification or recertification and a herd infection rate of less than one percent during the previous 18 months. Counties with less than five percent herd infection rate are modified-certified. When more than five percent, they are noncertified.

Counties lose status if infection rates are too high or if certain disease controls are lacking.

Brucellosis readily spreads. Abortions and breeding problems caused by the disease can mean serious production losses for cattle growers and dairymen.

## Environmental board approves strip mine reclamation fund

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board unanimously approved a proposal creating a statewide surface mine reclamation fund to be financed by a \$50-per-acre fee for surface mining permits. The non-refundable fee is expected to raise approximately \$1 million annually for reclamation purposes.

The EQB is a 21-member independent panel of executive agency officials, legislators and citizens charged with passing regulations to be administered by DER.

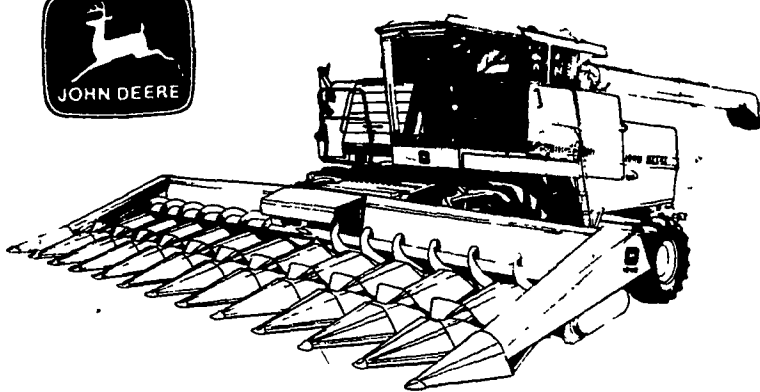
Implementation of the surface mine reclamation fund will be accompanied by a reduction in the bonds strip mine operators now are required to post for newly permitted areas.

The minimum bonding rate, set by the secretary of the Department

of Environmental Resources, is to drop from \$4,000 per acre to \$3,000 per acre.

DER Secretary Clifford L. Jones, who also serves as chairman of the EQB, lauded the board's action, saying, "Establishment of this reclamation fund will help solve one of Pennsylvania's more serious environmental problems. This is an important breakthrough."

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## Lancaster Countians will serve on advisory board

SOUTHAMPTON — Daniel L. Martin, Manheim, was elected chairman of the Federal Order 4 Advertising and Promotion Agency Advisory Committee at the August quarterly meeting in Harrisburg.

Robert B. McSparran, Peach Bottom, was elected secretary of the committee.

Martin, vice president of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative, previously served as secretary of the Committee. He is also vice president of Dairy Council, Inc., and a director for Holly Milk Cooperative.

The 35-year farmer has firm convictions about the necessity of advertising and promoting milk.

"We need to improve our adult advertising. Although the new theme, 'Milk. The fresher refresher,' is an improvement over some national themes, I feel the local 'Milk. The soft soft drink.' is the most effective advertising theme milk has ever had," Martin explained.

McSparran, president of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative, has served as a member of the committee ten years. He is also past president of Pennmarva Dairymen's Federation and is a director for both Holly Milk Cooperative and Dairy Council, Inc.

Other officers elected to serve are: David Weitzer, Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Association, vice chairman; and Ward Zigler, Capitol Milk Producers, treasurer.

The Federal Order 4 Advertising and Promotion Agency, Baltimore, Maryland, invests milk promotion dollars in advertising, promotion and nutrition education. The agency appropriated \$6 million in 1980.