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Congress OK's 1981 Farm Bill

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Although the U.S. House of Representatives passed the 1981 Farm Bill, Wednesday night, by a slim margin of 205-203, just six days after the U.S. Senate's approval, the much discussed bill continued to draw fire from House Democrats.

"This isn't a farm bill — this is a

family farm liquidation act of 1981," blasted Congressman Tom Harkin (Dem-Iowa).

Harkin was a member of the conference committee which had been deadlocked for nearly a month as it sought to iron out differences between the original House and Senate versions of the bill.

The legislation, formally known

as the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, was accepted by the Conferees following 16 conference sessions. The total cost of the four-year bill is estimated at \$11 billion, compared to the \$10.6 billion Senate bill and the \$16.6 billion House version.

Harkin charged the Administration with "playing politics" with the farm legislation and thereby producing what amounts to a southern farm bill.

"The President is counting on the boll weevils to rescue him once again, so he sweetened price supports for sugar, cotton, peanuts and other southern crops. Northern crops, like wheat, corn, other feed grains and dairy were just left out in the cold, despite the fact that farm economies need help badly," Harkin said.

A second Iowa congressman, Berkeley Bedell (Dem) expressed extreme disappointment of the approved bill.

"Although I believe that we do need to make a balanced reduction

in government expenditures, I think that we are making a serious mistake if we attempt to achieve budget savings by approving a weak farm bill that provides inadequate support for our nation's number one industry," Bedell stated. "I think that a strong farm program should be recognized as an investment essential to turning this country around."

The final House tallies included

80 Democrats voting in favor; 125 Republicans in favor; 144 Democrats against; 59 Republicans against.

However, Senate Farm Bill proponents, passed the Conferees report last week by a vote of 68-31.

"I am very pleased that the Senate strongly — and very wisely — supported the Farm Bill. I caution that the alternative to this

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New egg co-op organizes

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

LANCASTER — A new national egg marketing cooperative, which already includes owners representing 18 million birds and with the possibility it could cover more than twice that number, is being organized.

The new co-op, called U. S. Egg Marketers, Inc., was incorporated Dec. 10, according to Boyce Overstreet, of Lakewood, N. J., who is serving as secretary.

While the co-op already

represents some 18 million birds, the number of producers signed up totals just seven. Of the 18 million, approximately 14 million birds are owned by Fred Adams, reportedly the largest layer operator in the nation. Adams is also president of the co-op.

"We have seven producers signed up, representing 18 million birds or 220,000 cases of production a week," according to Overstreet.

"In addition, there are firm

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Home and Youth

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Lancaster joins Adams in LT alert

LANCASTER — Chief veterinarian Max A. VanBuskirk, head of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry, confirmed an outbreak of the contagious poultry disease, laryngotracheitis, LT, in Lancaster County on Thursday.

This latest outbreak, which occurred in the Quarryville region, marks the third confirmed outbreak of this disease in southeastern Pennsylvania in the past week. Two additional outbreaks occurred in flocks located in the York Springs area of Adams County.

This disease, which can result in a 5-70 percent loss in the flock depending on severity of outbreak and bird conditions, threatens the poultry industry with a recurrence of a previous outbreak that left a high death toll in Pennsylvania's poultry houses.

According to Lancaster County Extension Agent Jay Irwin, this disease caused 750,000 birds to be placed under quarantine in 1978. "Winter is the time of year that we find outbreaks of this disease because there is less sunshine to prevent its spread. These confirmed outbreaks mean LT is out and on the prowl again."

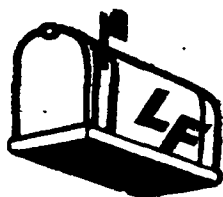
According to VanBuskirk, birds suffering with LT are actually suffocating from the disease. The virus which causes the disease causes the birds to create an "unusual amount of mucous in the upper trachea. Their tracheas then become ulcerated and may bleed, with the birds shaking and sneezing out bloody mucous as they try to clear the blockage."

Other symptoms of a flock suffering from this viral infection include reduced production, watery eyes, coughing, wheezing, and twisting their necks.

The chief veterinarian stressed

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Inside
This
Week's...



The year is drawing to a close quickly and everyday our mail is filled with DHIA reports. Find 18 reports representing 21 counties throughout the paper.

Delaware Valley College tops Bucks County DHIA. Read about their key to success on page A28.

Penn State will celebrate a very merry Christmas with the \$140,000 they received from the Ag Arena Sale last Friday. For buyers and consignors, see page A24.

RCWP to receive \$700,000 grant

LANCASTER — The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in Washington recently approved a \$700,000 grant for the Rural Clean Waters Program in Lancaster to handle inventory and monitoring of the Conestoga Headwaters.

According to Richard Pennay, ASCS ag program specialist in Harrisburg, "The program was in competition with several other projects. We were one of two projects approved; the other program being located in North Dakota.

The Service requires a work plan be drawn up within 90 days of approval date. Pennay said this plan will include "an outline of the chemical composition of the water, what we're going to monitor, how we're going to do it, and the time frame we expect to do it in."

The project, instigated to clean up non-point source pollution (such as sediment, manure runoff,

fertilizer and herbicide runoff and sewage effluent), includes an inventory to identify current water-quality problems and what is needed to correct them. In their sampling program the government will be drilling deep wells to sample ground water. These samples will then be tested by the State Bureau of Water Quality.

In addition to the inventory and monitoring, farmers in the Lancaster County Conestoga Watershed are receiving technical and financial assistance in solving their conservation problems. Under RCWP, farmers in Lancaster County can request financial assistance in remedying on-farm problems concerning erosion or manure management with the government picking up 50 to 75 percent of the cost.

The \$700,000 allocated by the ASCS will be added to the \$1.9 million already in the program. DK



Champion of the 1981 Royal Winter Agricultural Fair in Canada, 1980 Supreme Champion and All-American Aged Cow, Northcroft Ella Elevation became the 17th female in Holstein history to score 97 2E during her recent classification. See story on page A21.