

## Hallowell, dairy committee iron out milk referendum

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania dairy farmers may be able to vote on the proposed dairy referendum as early as March 1, Pa. Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell said Tuesday.

Hallowell's announcement followed a meeting that included several dairy farmers and co-op representatives, who met with Hallowell to review the referendum draft and establish a timetable. In addition, said Hallowell, the committee adopted a few

minor proposal changes.

The proposed referendum will provide more than \$9 million a year to increase sales of milk and dairy products by deducting about 10 cents per hundredweight of milk from every Pa. producer.

Hallowell said the proposal is expected to be printed and mailed to dairy farmers in January. The committee decided on four regional meetings beginning in February. However, Hallowell said that a fifth meeting in western Pa. is still under consideration.

The four meeting sites and dates are as follows: Feb. 5 — Hazelton; Feb. 8 — Penn State; Feb. 9 — Lancaster; Feb. 10 — Warrendale.

Hallowell explained the public meetings, which will all begin at 1 p.m., were set in certain areas so that most farmers could attend with no more than a two-hour drive.

Following the March vote, a teller committee will be appointed to tabulate the votes, said Hallowell. The Secretary said he hopes to have the tabulation accomplished by April 1. If approved, the referendum is expected to be law by July 1, 1982, the beginning of 1983 fiscal year.

The committee also approved a 3 percent administrative cost, instead of the proposed 4 percent.

The referendum, if approved, will be regulated by an advisory committee. Following Tuesday's meeting, Hallowell said, the committee will consist of those persons actively engaged in milk production. An all-dairy farmer committee should, "strengthen the decision-making ability of farmers making contributions," Hallowell explained.

The committee will consist of 20 people with three-year terms. The responsibility of the committee will be to develop and administer the program. Hallowell said such duties include advertising and promotion (except brand name), research and new product development and nutritional education programs.

## Scenes of the season



At Christmas time, beauty fills not only everyone's heart, but also the world around us. What moments before was just a plain broken fence, now is a haven for glittering icy crystals - dropped on a spot which, no doubt, has been adorned thus for centuries.

## Christmas tree harvest

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Waiting on a constant stream of buyers keeps Gary busy most of the time as he explains the various species of trees, makes recommendations for selections, and keeps the wall of the small sales booth filled with a supply of fresh evergreen wreaths.

Trees sold are in two size breakdowns, the 6-7½ size and the 7½-9 foot size. Prices this year range from about \$2.25 per foot to \$2.75 per foot depending on the species of tree selected.

Douglas fir is the undisputed favorite of Strathmeyer customers and a giant 13-foot-tall Douglas from the Dover growers is currently gracing the Governor's mansion in Harrisburg. Gary tells customers that Douglas firs are soft, and of dense and shapely branches.

Scotch pine, with its stiff, medium-length needle, is another traditional favorite.

Showing great promise to win over new converts is the Concolor

fir, also called the white fir. Its branches are layered, very full, and the strong fragrance of the Concolor is rich with a fruity, spicy scent, and a hint of orange.

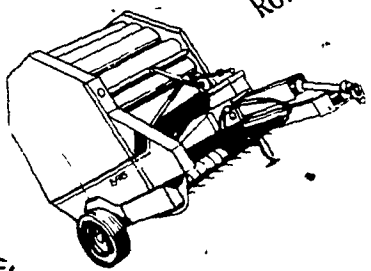
Fraser fir is another up-and-coming variety, although the Strathmeyer plantings of this tree are still too young for retailing. The few that are on the market are more likely to have been shipped from growers in northwest Pennsylvania, or have been brought up from North Carolina.

Since all four of the Strathmeyer sons are joining the family business, plantings of both Christmas trees and other nursery stock have tripled in the last few years.

"We've been planting 50,000 to 70,000 new seedlings each year," notes Tim, "and expect to just about double our sales of Christmas trees over the next few years."

And that's good news for all the live Christmas tree lovers of the area.

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