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Amendments curb Cruelty to Animals bill

BY SHEILA MILLER

HARRISBURG — During the past several weeks, the state's Cruelty to Animals legislation, Senate Bill 1208, has been the focal point for a united farm organization lobby effort. On Wednesday morning, all the talking and persuading paid off for Pennsylvania farmers.

On that morning, from the Capitol Building's Senate floor, Senator George Gekas (R-15th) presented amendments to the controversial bill which took the potential sting out of SB 1208 as it concerns farmers. These amendments were the results of many discussions with farm leaders

from farm organizations and other individuals.

SB 1208 originally was drafted to amend certain parts of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes law involving cruelty to animals (Section 5511 of Title 18, act of November 25, 1970) and was introduced by Senators George Gekas, Edward Howard (R-10th), Robert Jubehrer (R-30th), James Rhoades (D-29th), William Moore (R-33rd), and Edward Zemprelli (D-45th) on Nov. 16, 1981. The Senate Judiciary Committee passed the bill on Dec. 9, 1981 and since then it has been placed on the Senate Calendar for consideration. Several sections in the original

bill created quite an uproar in the agricultural community, especially the one dealing with providing "access to clean and sanitary shelter" for animals to protect them against inclement weather and to preserve their body heat and keep them dry, along with the section which would have protected humane agents or police officers from civil liability.

To deal with the farm communities' arguments against such legislation, Gekas offered the following amendments to his bill:

First, he added two definitions to the legislation — agricultural production, and normal farming operation. Borrowing from the Ag

Districts law, Act 43, it was decided that agriculture production is "production for commercial purposes of livestock and livestock products." And normal farming operations would mean "customary and generally accepted activities, practices, and procedures that farmers adopt, use, or engage in year after year in production and preparation for market of poultry, livestock and their products."

Secondly, the subsection dealing with shelter received another new line stating: "This subsection shall not apply to such reasonable activity as may be undertaken in agricultural production or normal farming operations." This 20-word sentence has succeeded in freeing the farm community from the provisions of the subsection which would have wrecked financial havoc on various livestock operations.

The third major amendment came on page 10 of the bill and dealt with the section which would

have outlawed any wattle-clipping, spur-snipping, or feather-plucking in birds. The 6 lines which were

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Co-op begins annual meetings

IMPCO reviews; looks ahead

BY SUSAN KAUFFMAN AND DONNA TOMMELLEO

QUARRYVILLE — Pennsylvania's national dairy ranking jumped from fifth to fourth, following 1981 production tallies, announced Inter-State Milk Producer Cooperative Director of Public Relations Kathy Gill during Thursday's District 12 meeting.

While Gill met with Quarryville producers, IMPCO president Robert McSparran addressed District 11 producers in Cochranville. The annual meetings capped a week of three IMPCO gatherings beginning at Chestnut Level with District 3 on Tuesday.

McSparran, Gill and IMPCO general manager Paul Hand, keynote speaker for District 3, reviewed the year both nationally and locally.

Hand reported that IMPCO recently picked up 160 new members following the release of Christiana Milk. He cited that the

2,800 membership roll has increased from that figure in 1978 to more than 3,200 in December of 1981.

The volume of milk being marketed by the cooperative has grown along with the increased membership, said Hand, who is also an economist. However, controlled growth has been the key to avoid out of hand overproduction. He mentioned growth in business assets and liabilities. The ownership of Holly Milk in October 1981 increased numbers of buyer agreements with Tuscan, M and M, Johanna and API (Lehigh Valley) handlers to increase fluid milk market outlets, said Hand.

It was pointed out that last year, CCC stocks equalled almost 10 percent of the total milk produced. According to District 12 director Curtis Akers, IMPCO members produced 1/5 of CCC purchases.

"We've got to either produce less or sell more," Akers said. He

reported that January 1982 marked the 33rd consecutive month of increasing dairy production.

When addressing District 12, Kathy Gill said she preferred increased consumption rather than under production to alleviate the national surplus.

"We've got to change the taste preference of consumers," she stressed.

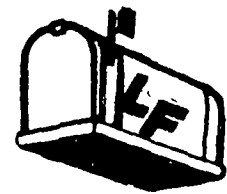
She recalled that 10 years ago coffee and milk ranked at the top of the consumer's beverage list. However, 1981 found milk a poor fourth behind soft drinks, beer and coffee.

Gill called for member participation in the upcoming state milk referendum which must pass by a majority of 50.1 percent of voting producers.

"We're producing our share of milk in the Mid-Atlantic and now we must do our share of the work," Gill said.

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Week's...



The last of the Farm Show results have reached our desks and you can find them scattered throughout the paper this week. Find the junior beef breeding show on D8 and oodles and oodles of winning Show udders on D2.

The annual Lime, Fertilizer, and Pesticide Conference was held in Hershey Convention Center, Wednesday and Thursday. For all the particulars, see page...A20.

A local girl wears the crown of the state's potato queen - making this the second year in a row a Lancaster Countian has carried this honor...B13.

Seed company closes; "clients" to blame

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ

LANCASTER — The American Seed Company, a national seed selling business based in downtown Lancaster, recently closed their doors after 63 years of offering kids around America a chance to earn their first spending money.

And ironically enough, it's the very "clients" to whom the company catered that David Hackett, president for the past five years, says caused the downfall of the business.

"The general economy is down and that's affecting other companies everywhere. We read it everyday. But that didn't affect us as much as the erosion of responsibility in society," Hackett said. "It's the kids; I think the kids just reflect what the parents would do to a great extent. They just didn't pay us for the seeds they got, and in the past six years, the number who didn't pay increased."

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Ralph, center, and Robert Kreider, right, are congratulated by IMPCO's District 12 director Curtis Akers during district's annual meeting at the Solanco fairgrounds on Thursday. The Quarryville brothers were recognized for their 5-year participation in IMPCO's production cost survey.