

## PDA offers milk referendum 'hotline'

HARRISBURG — In anticipation of the many questions resulting from the proposed milk referendum, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture recently established a toll-free telephone number to handle incoming queries, announced Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell.

Copies of the proposal plus a letter from Hallowell are currently en route to more than 12,000 Pennsylvania dairy farmers. Questions will be processed through the toll-free line, 1-800-932-0699.

"This is a critical time for dairymen both in Pennsylvania and throughout the nation," Hallowell writes. "Pennsylvania dairymen are exceeding even national averages for increased milk production while surpluses reach record levels. Although advertising and promotion are not the only solutions to our surplus problem it is perhaps the least painful option available to us."

"As a twelfth generation dairy farmer, I have always believed that those of us that produce milk also have an obligation to help market it. As an individual dairymen, however, you just decide on your own whether the future of your dairy operation is worth this additional investment," he adds.

The proposal, as approved by the 25-member state Dairy Promotion Advisory Committee, calls for 3/4 of one percent of the state's average blend price assessment on all milk sold. If approved, producers would be assessed about 10 cents per hundredweight.

According to Hallowell the proposed referendum is expected to generate more than \$9 million the first year for dairy promotion.

In addition to the hotline, producers, state-wide, will have to chance to learn more about the proposal and air their views through a series of five regional public meetings.

The regional meetings, which all begin at 1 p.m. are as follows: Feb. 5 — Hazletown, Genetti's Best Western; Feb. 8 — State College, Keller Conference Center; Feb. 9 — Lancaster, Farm and Home Center; Feb. 10 — Clarion, Clarion Holiday Inn; Feb. 11 — Donegal, Laurel Highlands Motor Inn.

The hearings will be conducted under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Commodities Act of 1968.

Following the hearings, a referendum of milk producers will be held in March, calling for a majority vote of 50.1 percent needed for passage. If passed, the proposal could take effect by July 1.

## Pughs wins Franklins top Alfalfa Growers award



Harold Gayman, left, Quincy-area farmer and immediate past president of the Pa. Forage and Grassland Council, presents a plaque to Carl E. Pugh, center, and son Carl of Chambersburg. The Pughs were recognized at the recent Franklin County Soils and Crops Day for their outstanding 1981 Alfalfa

production of 7,163 tons of hay, 2,584 pounds of crude protein, and 7,628 pounds of TDN. The Alfalfa Growers' program is conducted by the Extension Service in co-operation with the PFGC. The award was presented at the Lemaster Community Center.

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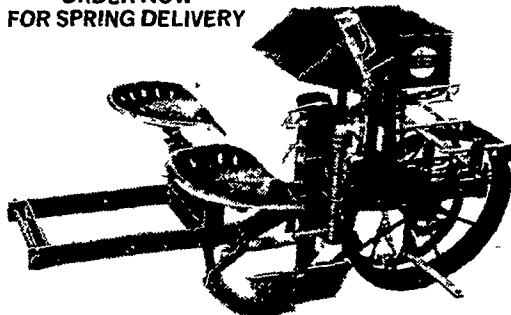
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