

Lancaster Farming

VOL. 27 No. 16

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, February 13, 1982

\$7.50 per year

'Milkerendum' hearings answer producers' queries

BY SHEILA MILLER

LANCASTER — Farmers across the state met at five regional meetings this week to voice their concerns and sentiments concerning the proposed Pennsylvania dairy promotion order, commonly referred to as the Milkerendum.

A crowd of 125 farmers and farm organization representatives

Columns

Editorials; Now is the time, A10; On being a farm wife, B5; Ladies have you heard? B13; Ida's Notebook, B15; Farming's Futures, B19; Farm Talk, D12; Brockett's Ag Advice, D18.

Dairy

Franklin DHIA, B41; Cumberland DHIA, D10; Dauphin DHIA, D13; Perry DHIA, D20.

turned out here at the Farm and Home Center on Tuesday afternoon to hear what Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell and his marketing assistant James Sumner and Deputy Secretary Luther Snyder had to say about the proposal. Of that group, 30 people presented testimonies.

The meeting in what Hallowell termed the "heartland of the state's dairy industry" turned out to be a welcome relief for the PDA representatives after having heard from a more uproarious crowd at last Friday evening's meeting in Scranton. The meeting here

Home and Youth

Home on the Range, B6; Homestead Notes, B2; FWS calendar, B5; Kid's Korner, B10; 4-H news, B20; Estate planning, B12; Red Rose livestock banquet, B16; Hiring underage help? B32.

proceeded in an orderly fashion, with no uncontrolled outbursts from those assembled.

Laying the groundwork for the session, Snyder and Sumner reviewed the provisions of the milk referendum which was requested 1½ years ago by the Keystone Milk Marketing Council, Inc.

The proposal for a milk marketing order falls under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act of 1968, which establishes procedures for developing and operating marketing programs for generic promotion of Pennsylvania farm

products. The current law specifically outlines that this promotion and advertising program must not be brand-oriented, and could only be changed through legislative amendment.

Snyder pointed out that Pennsylvania already has three existing marketing programs under the act — for apples since 1967, red cherries since 1974, and potatoes since 1976.

After receiving the request for a referendum from Keystone, Hallowell appointed a 23-member Dairy Promotion Advisory Committee in September 1980,

making his selections from a list of names submitted by farm organizations, dairy cooperatives, and independent producers. Since then, the committee has been meeting and redrafting the statewide milk marketing order proposal which was given tentative approval a year ago and was finalized this past December.

The referendum is tentatively scheduled for a vote sometime during March, unless testimonies received at the 5 public hearings would warrant a rewrite of the proposal.

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Nine borrowers in trouble

FmHA pledges financial aid

HARRISBURG — "Although many farmers are facing financial difficulty because of today's cost-price squeeze, the Farmers Home Administration intends to do all it can to help it borrowers stay in farming," announced Pennsylvania's FmHA State Director D. Elmer Hawbaker on Monday.

"We recognize there are problems with high interest rates, inflation, a grain embargo, adverse weather and other causes," he said. "And these have been intensified by overall bumper crops that have affected prices."

"As Secretary of Agriculture John Block said recently, our farm economy is in a valley right now and needs some help to move on up the hill on the other side."

Hawbaker's remarks come at a time when this rural credit agency

is under fire from farm organizations and other groups for supposedly helping to put the squeeze on farmers by forcing foreclosures.

The FmHA chief in Pennsylvania terms these accusations as erroneous, at least in the Keystone state, and cites only 9 farm cases that are in serious trouble.

"We have a total of 62,000 farmers in Pennsylvania," stated Hawbaker. "And of that total, FmHA services 2,947 of these farmers financially — that's 4.34 percent of all the farmers in the state and these are the people who can't get credit anywhere else."

Hawbaker stated that the 9 serious cases in Pennsylvania were pending "acceleration" of their loans. That is, the borrowers

were notified that there loans would have to be settled by a certain date. This is accomplished through liquidating assets and paying all debts, or by conveying all the assets to the government which then resells land, equipment, cattle, etc. to clear the loans, he explained.

Hawbaker stressed there has been "no actual foreclosures" in the state recently and none are scheduled. He termed the "accelerated" method of clearing debts as "voluntary liquidations." If a farmer doesn't voluntarily liquidate, however, FmHA can take possession, he explained.

Although the 9 serious loan cases all involve real estate mortgages, FmHA also lends money for operating and emergency costs to

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Inside This Week's...



Dairy farmers from Blair and Bedford counties earn "milking degrees". See page...A20.

At Pennfield's dairy day, Thursday, dairy farmers learned the key to dairy profit ability for the next few years. Interested? See page...A21.

During the York Baby Beef awards banquet, Bill and Pat Holloway won the 1982 Citation Award for serving as leaders, judges and coaches for over twenty years!...B26.

Want to meet the 1982 All-American Pork Producer? He's from Kenton, Del., and his story appears on page...B30.



A 9-month-old Elevation daughter out of an Excellent Kingpin, topped the Maryland Holstein Convention Sale, Wednesday. Oak Ridge Farms of Ontario Canada paid \$8,800

for Kents-Reserve Elevation Cherl-ET, the consignment of Marion F. Andrew, Centerville, Md.

Open heifer tops Md. Holstein Sale

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO
WEST FRIENDSHIP, Md. — An Elevation daughter commanded \$8,800, Wednesday, during the Maryland Holstein Convention sale, which closed out the two-day 18th Annual Maryland Holstein Convention.

The \$8,800 price tag for Kents-Reserve Elevation Cherl-ET was one of the highest paid for an open heifer in the history of the Maryland convention sale, said a spokesperson from Remsburg Sale Service. Wednesday's tallies showed 52 head averaging \$2,183 for a gross of \$113,550.

Consigned by Marion F. Andrew of Centerville, Md., the 9-month-old heifer was purchased by Oak Ridge Farm of Ontario, Canada.

The fancy Black and White is out of an Excellent Kingpin daughter with a top record as a 4-year-old of 24,070 pounds of milk and 786 pounds of fat. Her second dam, a 3E 92 Excellent Astronaut, carries an impressive 26,000 pounds of milk and 1,068 pounds of fat as a 5-year-old. Third dam, Wintacres Dean Charlene, is also a 3E 92 with

a lifetime production of 186,800 pounds of milk and 6,845 pounds of fat.

A 3-year-old Astronaut daughter, consigned by William Schrader of Earleville, Md., brought the sale's second top price of \$5,300. Wil-O-Mar Astro Pearl was purchased by Holmacres Holstein Farms of Northfield, Minnesota.

Out of an Elevation daughter, the Pearl cow finished her first lactation with more than 16,200 pounds of milk and 570 pounds of fat. She is due to calve in March to Ropies Chet Butt.

The University of Maryland consigned the third-high seller, which brought a \$3,500 price tag. Terrapin Elevation 1261, purchased by Hoodstead Farms, Middletown, Md., is sired by Elevation and out of a Very Good Simpson Apollo Rebel daughter. The 3-year-old cow finished her first record with more than 17,800 pounds of milk and 610 pounds of fat.

Elesabeth Ingall Gillet of Taneytown, Md., paid 3,000 for a

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