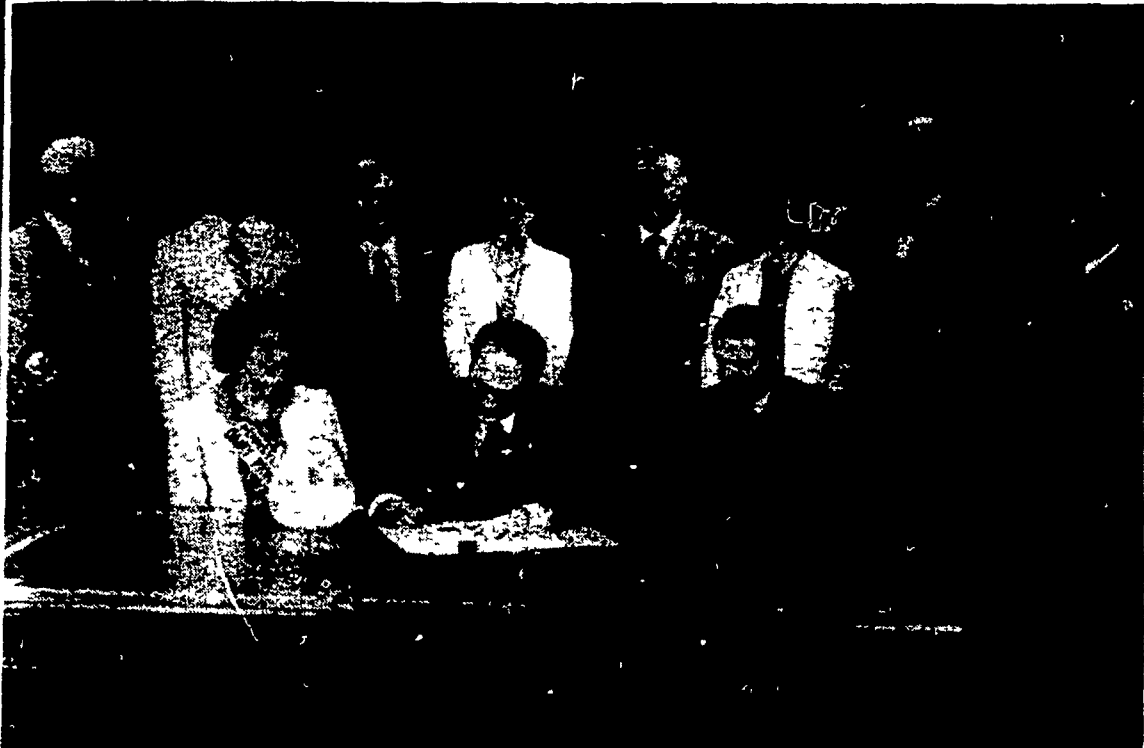


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Governor Thornburgh signed proclamation Thursday naming June as the 46th dairy month for Pennsylvania. Seated beside him are Charlene Rohrer, PA dairy princess, and Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell. Standing, from left to right: Alpheus Ruth, president of Lehigh Valley Co-op; Seryl Treichler, member of the dairy committee for the State Grange;

John Biechler, president of Commonwealth National Bank; Pat Wolffs, director of political education at PFA; David Roth, PA Dairymen's Association; Barbara Woods, vice president of PFU; Rep. Sam Morris from Chester County; and George Stambaugh, director from Eastern Milk Co-op.

Gov. proclaims June dairy month

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ

HARRISBURG — With a large container of milk placed symbolically on his desk and a red and white "Real Seal" gracing his suit, Governor Thornburgh signed a proclamation, Thursday, designating June as dairy month — now in its 46th consecutive year.

It's only fitting that we sign this once again this year because a few weeks ago milk became the state's official drink," he declared before the signing.

Gov Thornburgh was referring to H.B. 1351, which he signed on Tuesday, May 4, proclaiming that, "Milk is hereby selected, designated and adopted as the official beverage of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

The governor took the opportunity to remind those gathered for the signing that, "Pennsylvania is proud of its dairy industry which not only offers nutritious food products, but also contributes to our economic growth by providing quality products and a steady source of jobs for our citizens."

"The Commonwealth's 15,000 dairy farms annually produce more than four billion quarts of milk valued at \$1.2 billion dollars, and we rank among the top five states in the nation in the number of dairy farms and dairy cows, as well as in the quantity of milk produced, marketed and sold for processing. Truly, our dairy families, milk processors and livestock breeders are helping Pennsylvania agriculture grow better," he stated.

Following the signing, Gov Thornburgh drank from the milk-filled giant brandy snifter to audience applause, and as though it were his own personal trademark to the now traditional task, he uttered an approving sigh and offered the onlookers a giant smile. More applause followed.

In attendance for the signing were Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell, State Dairy Princess Charlene Rohrer, and several representatives from the state's dairy industry.

U.S. ag committee reviews dairy ideas

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A 10-person U.S. agriculture subcommittee on agricultural production, marketing and stabilization of prices convened Thursday for the last time before the Memorial Day recess to hear responses to the emergency dairy plan, recently proposed by U.S. Agriculture Secretary John Block.

Closer to home, a three-man teller committee began counting milk referendum ballots early this week. Follow the progress of the state Milk Marketing Program beginning on page A46.

According to John Cozart, spokesman for U.S. Senate ag chairman Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), more than 100 people, including legislators and dairy leaders, attended Thursday's hearing. By request, Senator Helms recently introduced the secretary's proposal now dubbed S. 2533.

Under Block's plan, designed to reduce record surplus levels, the U.S. Agriculture Secretary would exercise complete authority in setting the dairy price support. If enacted, Block said he would not adjust the support level until January 1, 1983. Without the legislation, USDA anticipates spending almost \$2 billion this year in dairy supports.

Additionally, the secretary's plan includes eight provisions which do not need congressional approval. While most dairy groups

have gone on record in opposition of any agriculture secretary retaining complete authority, a number have supported several of Block's provisions, such as extending milk markets in domestic and foreign trade and raising the standards of fluid milk, to name a few. For a complete review of Block's emergency dairy plan refer to Lancaster Farming May 8, 1982 issue.

Congressman Rudy Boschwitz informed the subcommittee that very soon he will introduce the National Milk Producers' Federation self-help plan into the legislature. Cozart admitted that many who participated in Thursday's hearings expressed support toward the NMPF two-part program.

The NMPF Price Stabilization provision, based on a beginning year estimated surplus level, is a two-tier pricing system administered by a dairy advisory board in consultation with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

For example, if the national surplus is estimated at 10 percent, farmers would receive full market price for 90 percent of their milk. The remaining 10 percent will receive a reduced price, related to the world market price. The difference between the two prices will be collected into a fund to purchase a portion of milk not used in federal programs.

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Time for dairy month

LANCASTER — Every sweep of the second hand brings us closer to June Dairy Month and our big salute to the dairy industry in the June 5 issue.

But there's plenty of time left for our annual Dairy Photo Contest. We're getting a first hand look and dairy life through the lens of an amateur photographers.

Contest winners can receive up to \$50 for a first-place entry and we'll announce the lucky winner in our July 3 issue. Entries should be postmarked no later than June 23. Our photo judges Newton Bair, Lebanon County dairy agent and

Art and Jane Myers, professional photographers are looking forward to many fine photos.

The contest will include three categories: Dairy Farms, a dairy farm in a scenic setting; Dairy Partners, dairy animals together with their favorite people; and Dairy Life, unposed photos of events as they happen on a dairy farm.

To assist you in this year's contest, you'll find our handy entry blank on page A35. So keep those entries coming and let's put your farm, cattle, goats and friends on the pages of Lancaster Farming.

Right-to-Farm ready for signing

BY SHEILA MILLER

HARRISBURG — In a flurry of activity, the House members here at the Capitol moved a number of key agricultural bills one step closer to becoming law. Included in this week's action were the Right to Farm bill, House Bill 1823, and the Milk Identification bill, Senate Bill 1349.

With a vote of 185-1, HB 1823 received the final approval it needed from the House before beginning its journey to the Governor's desk. The House members voted to concur with the amendments to the Right to Farm bill made by the Senate. It is expected the Governor will sign the bill into law sometime next week.

Introduced by Lancaster's Noah Wenger and 28 other sponsors last September, the Right to Farm

bill's progress through the legislature was hampered by lobbying efforts of the Association of Township Supervisors.

Now, as it undergoes the final scrutiny of the governor, the Right to Farm bill stands ready to protect farmers from nuisance suits and ordinances as long as they are carrying out normal farming operations. No nuisance actions can be brought against an existing agricultural operation or an expansion which has lawfully been in operation for one year or more.

With the final signing of HB 1823 into law, it will be Pennsylvania's official policy to conserve and protect and encourage the development and improvement of its agricultural land for the production of food and other

agricultural products."

With the ever increasing trend for people from nonfarm backgrounds to venture into the country, the state legislators have realized the increasing social pressures brought to bear on farmers.

"When nonagricultural land uses extend into agricultural areas, agricultural operations often become the subject of nuisance suits and ordinances. As a result agricultural operations are sometimes forced to cease operations. Many others are discouraged from making investments in farm improvements. It is the purpose of this act to reduce the loss to the Commonwealth of its agricultural resources by limiting the cir-

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