

Swine ID program moves ahead

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

HARRISBURG — Some 1500 herd identification numbers have thus far been issued under the state's new swine health rules by the Bureau of Animal Industry, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

This number represents approximately 15 percent of the estimated 10,000 to 12,000 swine producers in the Commonwealth.

"We're pretty well satisfied with the progress of the herd iden-

tification program," Dr. Max Van Buskirk, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, said.

"We realized initially we would have some difficulty because of the inability to communicate directly with each of the swine farmers.

"This is the reason that application forms to apply for a number and information on the program were made available through our regional offices, county extension offices, livestock

auctions and hog slaughtering operations."

Dr. Van Buskirk said the Bureau realizes that sufficient time must be given the swine industry to comply with the new identification requirement.

"We are expecting to allow six to eight weeks before starting to talk enforcement," he said.

Under the regulations, swine may not be moved within the state without proper identification. The identification can be in the form of

an ear tatoo, back slap tatoo, ear tag or other device approved by the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Dr. Van Buskirk also clarified the portion of the regulations concerning the issuance of a herd ID number.

"The regulations do not specifically require the issuance of a new herd identification number, although we prefer such a system," he said.

"But the law does require that

swine must be identified to permit traceback of animals."

Swine producers can use names, initials or a series of consecutive tag numbers, such as are used for cattle. But these must be recorded and approved by the Bureau of Animal Industry so that the identification used by a producer is protected.

The new ID requirements apply to feeder pigs, market hogs and breeding swine.

The regulations are an outgrowth of the pseudorabies outbreak experienced primarily in the southeastern section of the state.

The pseudorabies situation is described as "static" by Dr. Van Buskirk.

The number of quarantined herds stands at 26, including some feedlots, which are receiving the feeder pigs from the quarantined herds.

"A couple of new herds have been added in the past few months and several have been taken off the quarantine," Dr. Van Buskirk said.

"We expect that possibly half of the quarantines should be lifted within the next three to four months."

Chester Co. man is Ag Dept. counsel

HARRISBURG — John B. "Jock" Hannum, Jr., 39, of Unionville, Chester County, has been appointed Chief Counsel to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, according to State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell. Hannum began his duties with the Department on June 1.

As Chief Counsel, Hannum will serve as legal advisor to the

Secretary of Agriculture, and will be responsible for advising the Department's staff on all legal matters including civil and criminal litigation and contracts.

Hallowell said he was pleased that Hannum has accepted the appointment. "Jock brings a solid working knowledge of the law to this position," Hallowell said. "Having lived on a farm his entire life, he also understands the problems of our family farm

community. He has demonstrated his dedication and integrity throughout his career in both public and private service."

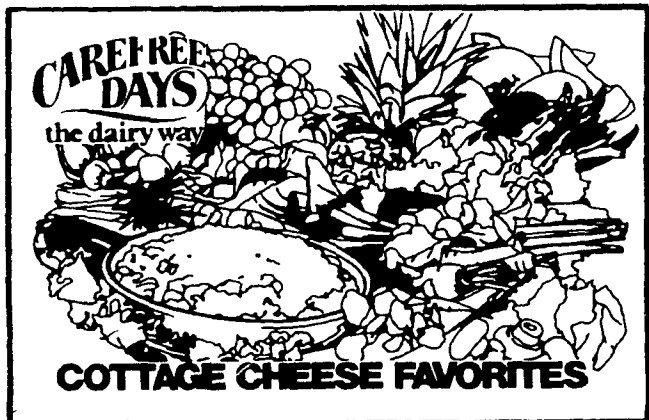
Hannum has taken a leave of absence from the lawn firm of Lamb, Windle and McErlane in West Chester, Chester County, to take this position. He is a former assistant U.S. Attorney and former clerk to state Superior Court Judge J. Sydney Hoffman.

Hannum, as a lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps, received two Bronze Stars for valor in a combat situation during his service in

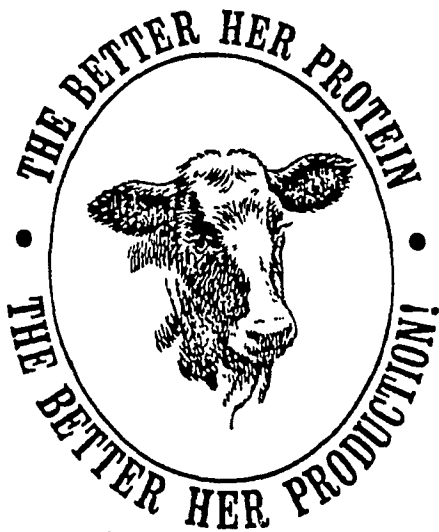
South Vietnam.

He received his J.D. degree from Dickinson School of Law in 1973. His undergraduate work was completed at the University of Pennsylvania in 1966 where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics.

A member of the Chester County Agricultural Development Council, Hannum is also active in a number of professional, educational and community organizations. Hannum and his wife Georgianna have four children.



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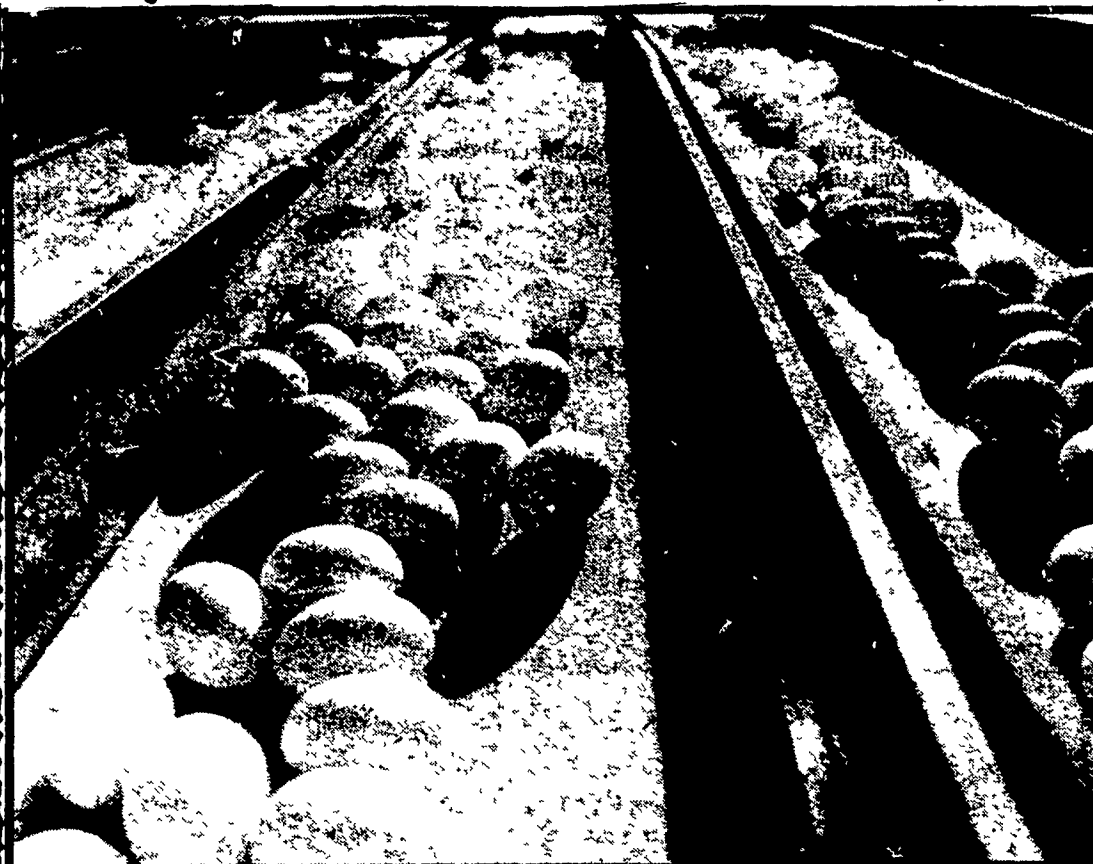
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