Grange urges feed grain purchase plan

HARRISBURG - The Pennsylvania State Grange has requested that the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Congress implement an Emergency Grain Purchase Program to help farmers who grow feed corn for livestock and who have been affected by the severe drought that hit 15 Pennsylvania counties.

In letters to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John Block and U.S. Senators John Heinz and Arlen Specter, State Grange Master Charles Wismer said, "Under the plan we propose, grain farmers would be permitted to buy surplus Commodity Credit Corporation stocks of feed corn at the county loan rate for corn, or \$2.91 per bushel. Farmers could buy an amount equal to the difference between the average yield and this year's yeild. Grain must be fed to

eligible livestock purchased before August 1, 1983."

"Figures on average yields are available for every farmer at his county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) office. The USDA staff is already in place in counties to implement this program," he added.

A similar program was used by the federal government in the 1960's and 1970's for victims of drought, Wismer said. Emergency feed grain and disaster payments are no longer available from the federal government, and to revive or institute a program requires an act of Congress.

The Grain Purchase Program would help beef and dairy farmers who grow their own feed grain, but would not help those who market their corn, Wismer admitted. "Beef and dairy farmers are hit twice," he said. Not only do they crops, but they also must buy replacement feed on the market at current high prices brought on by the PIK program and the drought."

According to the State ASCS office, the total loss in Pennsylvania corn crops is \$126 million. The USDA State Emergency Board has approved requests for federal relief from the 15 drought stricken counties for eight percent disaster loans through the Farmers Home Administration. Governor Dick Thornburgh must submit a formal request to USDA for drought disaster emergency declaration, which is then subject to approval by Secretary Block.

"Loans are fine," Wismer said, but they are at best a last resort for farmers."

The Grange also has asked the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing

have the financial loss of corn Board to hold hearings to increase the price of Class I fluid milk to consumers by one cent per quart to offset high production costs for dairy farmers. "This would be a temporary increase instituted on a regional basis in counties most severly affected by the drought," he said. "The increase would be passed on to farmers to offset high feed costs during the winter

A temporary price hike was granted during the 1960's when drought affected feed prices for Pennsylvania dairy farmers. Before an increase could be granted, public hearings must be held by the Milk Marketing Board at which both farmers and consumers have the opportunity to

Silver Canadius named "Most Classic Arabian"

MANHEIM - Silver Canadius, a purebred Arabian stallion, won the prestigious "Most Classic Arabian" class at the Eastern All-Arabian Show held recently at Devon.

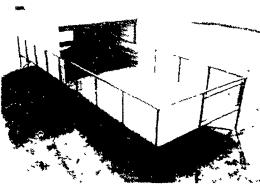
Canadius, owned by John and Doreen Christensen, Manheim R4.

won the honor twice before. Also in this show, four of his offspring won ribbons and money prizes.

Silver Canadius, a son of a three times National Top Ten Park Horse, has also won in Halter Championship competitions.

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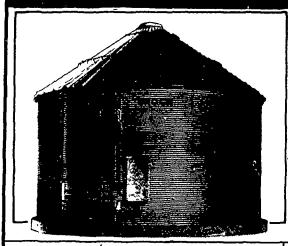
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