

## Poultry farmers to receive additional state aid

LANCASTER — State poultrymen battling a highly pathogenic strain of avian flu received encouraging news this week as state officials announced that additional state aid will soon be available to compensate for bird losses.

At a meeting Wednesday in Harrisburg, state officials said funds will be provided to reimburse farmers for birds which died of the highly pathogenic avian virus before federal indemnity programs took effect. Under the prior program, farmers receive indemnity payments only for the bird losses which occurred after a task force census was taken.

State Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell said that many farmers whose flocks were depopulated had substantial death losses prior to the USDA "extraordinary emergency" declaration.

"We intend to provide state funds for these farmers to cover bird losses which are not eligible under federal indemnities," Hallowell said.

According to state officials working with task force personnel sent to eradicate the deadly disease, nearly 200,000 birds died of the "hot" strain but were not eligible for federal indemnities.

The state Department of Agriculture began mailing funding application forms to farmers on Wednesday. Funds for reimbursement for death losses will be made available after Jan. 24, the deadline for return of the applications.

Additional state assistance will be determined, Hallowell said,

"when we have the information from farmers to properly assess the total costs of such a program, and if efforts to secure state legislation are successful."

Another area where poultrymen have been faced with high costs is cleaning and disinfecting. Hallowell said his department has been working with legislators to secure state authority and funding to help reimburse some of these costs.

"If state legislative efforts are successful, we will provide additional compensation for portions of certain other costs, including cleaning and disinfection," Hallowell said.

In other matters, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee regarding avian flu met recently and recommended to the USDA that all flocks infected with avian flu be depopulated. The committee advised that to eradicate the disease both high and low pathogenic flocks need to be depopulated.

The recommendation is based on two premises. First, committee members said, laboratory results are no longer precise as they had been in the beginning. To be determined highly pathogenic, the serum from infected flocks killed six of eight test birds. Today, the serum is killing a varying number of birds, making diagnosis almost impossible.

Secondly, and more importantly, is that no progress has been made in eradicating the disease. The committee attributes this to the continued presence of low pathogenic flocks.

If the committee's recom-

mendation is accepted, all flocks confirmed with avian flu in the future would be destroyed.

According to Tim Allwein, a spokesman for the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee is strictly advisory to the USDA and has no official authority. To date, task force officials had not met to discuss the committee's recommendation, Allwein said.

In an update on the avian flu situation, 222 flocks had been confirmed hot as of Thursday. This includes nine million birds. A total of 217 flocks, representing 8.8 million birds, had been depopulated.

### PUBLIC AUCTION

TUES., JAN. 10  
7 p.m.

Hershey Motor  
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Auctioneer,  
DAVE MARTIN

## Legacy of J.D.

(Continued from Page A22)

meat sales at the annual auction for the Center.

About 30 different 4-H organizations took part, including community clubs, special commodity clubs and judging teams.

Monies earmarked to the Center paid for the drilling of a desperately-needed new well, which cost over \$4,000. Remaining funds went to help pay the installation of a new heating and air-conditioning unit.

Teams sent their members to state and national competitions. Commodity clubs helped fund

stockmen's and dairymen's contests at the 4-H fair, and community clubs added to treasuries which sponsor achievement nights, send members to various functions, and contribute to community service causes.

While the last bites of the Choice steer's meats are most likely gone, his memory will live on through a public-spirited buyer, the far-sighted imagination of a group of leaders, and the enthusiastic sales leg work of a host of York County 4-H and FFA members.

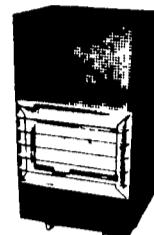
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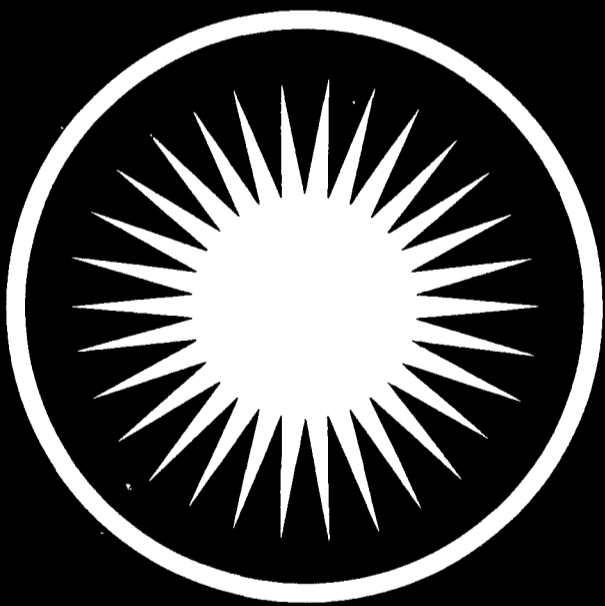
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