

# Task force issues poultry repopulation guidelines

**HARRISBURG** — As repopulation of flocks destroyed because highly pathogenic avian influenza begins, state federal-industry Task Force guidelines will help reduce the risk that healthy birds are not going into unhealthy environments. The guidelines will also be used to release state and federal quarantines on individual farms.

"Our guidelines provide the way for producers already hit by avian influenza to get back into business with a relatively small risk of additional losses or of spreading the virus to other flocks," said Dr. D.J. Fichtner, director of the Avian Influenza Task Force.

Six premises in the quarantine area that destroyed birds because of avian influenza have replaced them with new birds. Three of the new flocks are located in Lancaster County, two in Lebanon County, and one in Chester County.

"The repopulation of flocks is a positive sign," said state Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell, "but we're not out of the woods yet. Producers should continue to enforce strict rules about limiting the people who enter their premises, and follow stringent decontamination procedures."

Fichtner added, "They should also participate in the Poultry Watch program to make sure they catch a reinfection by the virus at the earliest possible time."

The guidelines state the producers must:

- completely clean and disinfect all poultry houses, equipment, feed and must have disposed properly of all litter, feed and manure;

- wait a minimum of 30 days after the cleaning and disinfecting is completed and approved, observing all quarantine restrictions;

- receive negative laboratory results from premises environmentally sampled after cleaning and disinfection;

- have a statistical number of the replacement birds tested by an approved laboratory before movement;

- provide an affidavit that the crews handling the replacement birds have not been exposed to birds or premises known to be infected with avian influenza. The crews must also wear clean clothing, clean and disinfected footwear or use disposable coveralls and disposable boots over footwear;

- make sure that vehicles used to transport the birds are properly

cleaned and disinfected;

- and, have proper permits to repopulate their premise.

Every step of the procedure is approved by Task Force officials, who will also survey the neighborhood around the premise before

it is repopulated.

Once the new flocks are established, they will be included in the "Poultry Watch" surveillance program.

As of January 24, 253 flocks have been declared positive for highly

pathogenic avian influenza with the 5,100 square mile quarantine area in Pennsylvania, and the 12 square mile quarantine area in New Jersey.

More than 10 million birds have been destroyed to date.

## Avian

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to prevent the spread of the high pathogenic virus."

Heinz added that any eradication program must meet the test of fairness and effectiveness, including fair market indemnities.

Virginia Sen. John Warner, who testified with Heinz, said the Pennsylvania avian flu crisis "is a problem that threatens the national poultry industry and, therefore, needs a national remedy."

Warner, who supports the need for additional federal indemnities, said that on the average \$1.82 has been paid per bird. This amount, he added, does not match the down time and other costs incurred by the poultrymen.

In addition to the senators, Lancaster County poultrymen and industry representatives pleaded

their cases on behalf of the state's \$400 million poultry industry.

Donald Horn, executive vice president of Pennfield Corporation, told Sen. Spector that the state's poultry industry will suffer dramatic changes without federal aid.

"We will likely see farm bankruptcies and foreclosures, loss of both domestic and export markets and a substantial reduction in the size of the industry," Horn said.

"We have been willing to make this enormous sacrifice because it is in the best interest of our own state's industry and the national poultry industry, as well as the nation's consumers."

Horn added that the poultrymen believe "that in return for the enormous sacrifice the Pennsylvania poultry industry is making, we must receive fair market value for our destroyed poultry."

Pa. Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell agreed that farmers "are paying a dear price, not only for their businesses, but also for the lives of their families."

Hallowell said the number of people affected by the avian crisis goes beyond the several hundred farmers and includes those who supply the birds, work in the feed mills and supply stores, and those who work on the marketing side.

Also speaking at the hearing were Lancaster County poultry farmers Charles Warfel, Willow Street, and Ronald Shaffer, Manheim. Written testimonies by poultrymen Warren Miller and Dale Rohrer were presented for the record.

While no decisions were made concerning additional federal indemnities, the testimonies given Thursday will be compiled and reviewed for consideration of the fair market value poultrymen are seeking.

## Grange opposes liquor change

**QUARRYVILLE** — Fulton Grange No. 66 went on record at its meeting Monday night as opposing any changes in the State Liquor Store system that would turn the retailing of alcoholic beverages over to private enterprise.

In opposing the change supported by the Thornburgh Administration, the Grange said the change would increase the number of drunk drivers and alcohol addiction among the young, would increase costs to taxpayers and

only benefit the liquor interests and Mafia.

Mrs. Aldus Martin still had a few dinner theatre tickets for Feb. 4 and may be contacted for them, as no tickets will be available at the door. Pomona Master Clifford Holloway Jr. still had tickets for the Lancaster Co. Pomona Grange recognition dinner to be held Wednesday at Willow Valley Restaurant.

The Secretary, Doris Brown, read a letter of thanks from Cub Scout Troop 130 for permitting them to meet in the Grange Hall. It was announced that the first four degrees will be given May 14.

The Lecturer, Sandy Galbreath, presented the Mary Graham Dancers, a group of teenage girls, who performed six dance routines. They made a nice appearance in their varied costumes and had a program which displayed their talents. Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Smith showed colored slides of the Grange tour last summer to New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, after which AnnaBell Wiley showed movies of the trip and several others had snap shots and cards to view.

The program for the next meeting, Feb. 13, will feature "Family Feud" with Grange participation. The young marrieds committee, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Brin, chairman, will be in charge of the program.

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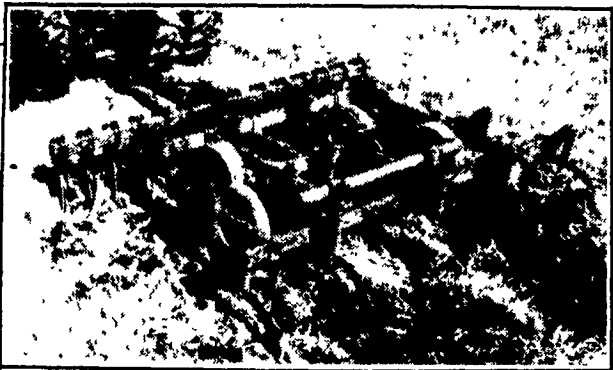
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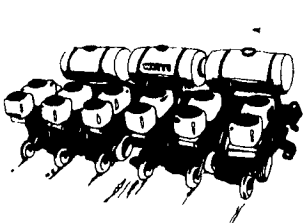
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## Mt. Joy Co-op

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company that went bankrupt and requires some renovation.

The two real money makers for API are the fluid milk plants in Lansdale and Schuylkill Haven, said Alger. API ice cream sales increased by 50 percent last year, he said. Less than two percent of API's manufactured products had to be sold to the CCC last year.

API board members are trying to get 10 cents of the 15 cents mandatory deduction back to API for brand name advertising. Alger said it is still uncertain if funds from the national promotion program may be used on brand name advertising.

Entertainment following the meal was provided by a chorus of producers' wives. The women sang a collection of gospel songs.