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Lancaster Farming

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Keith Eckel PFA cites farm plan priorities

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The preparation of a new four-year federal farm program starting in 1985 is one of the key challenges facing organized agriculture this year according to Keith Eckel, president of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA).
 Eckel made the observation during a breakfast address on Thursday to over 200 Pennsylvania farmers and their congressman. PFA national legislative committees visited their congressman on Wednesday and Thursday to discuss important national farm issues.
 Eckel said the new long-term farm program should be fashioned to avoid past mistakes and be flexible enough to adjust to changing situations.
 "We mustn't lose sight of the fact

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Monitoring of auction ads begins

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
 HARRISBURG — Auction and public sale advertisements are now being monitored in Pennsylvania to see if auctioneers are complying with a new state law to include their names and license numbers in the ads.
 The new auctioneer law went into effect on January 1 and the new advertising requirement states:

"It is unlawful for a person to advertise an auction or sale at auction without including in the advertisement or notice of sale the name and license number of the auctioneer, auction house or auction company conducting the sale."

A check of the public sale ads in Section F of this week's Lancaster Farming will show some of the ads in which auctioneers are beginning to comply with the requirement.

"We have started to monitor published ads for compliance with the name and license number requirement," explained Dawn Glowacki, administrative secretary of the State Board of Auctioneer Examiners in the Pa. Department of State.

She further explained that letters of warning are being sent to auctioneers who are not including names and license numbers in the

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Addressing topics ranging from nutrition to health problems during Lancaster County Dairy Days were, from left, Darwin Braund, Robert Eberhart, Dr. Robert Whitlock, Dr. Terry Blanchard, Stephen Spencer and master of ceremonies Nelson Habecker.

Lancaster Dairy Days stress Johne's

BY LAURA ENGLAND
 LANCASTER — It is a disease similar to tuberculosis in man, only it affects dairy cattle.

It hits the intestinal tract and makes the absorption of nutrients difficult if not completely impossible. Infected cows begin to lose weight rapidly although their appetite and eating habits remain normal.

It is Johne's disease, and it could be affecting between five and 20 percent of the adult cows in Pennsylvania. Because it is difficult to diagnose and treatment is virtually nonexistent, Johne's disease is "a one-way street that once a cow gets sick she continues to go," said Dr. Robert Whitlock, a professor of veterinarian medicine at New Bolton Center.

"It's a difficult organism to work with," Dr. Whitlock said, "and after 25 years of research we still

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Speaking to dairymen attending Lancaster County Dairy Days held Monday and Tuesday, Dr. Whitlock said that Johne's disease is similar to tuberculosis (TB) in man. Johne's, however, does not affect people, but it does carry similar TB traits, he said.
 Cows become infected with

Johne's when organisms enter the intestinal tract and invade the intestinal lining causing infection. The intestinal walls thicken and can't absorb nutrients.

Calves are generally exposed to the disease, Dr. Whitlock said, and become infected at an early age but may develop no clinical signs for two to eight years. The older the cow at time of exposure, the

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Dr. Michael Radebaugh, of Parkton, Md., prepares to vaccinate a farm dog against rabies.

Outbreak of rabies continues its spread into Pa.

BY JOYCE BUPP
 Staff Correspondent
 YORK — An outbreak of rabies that has spread north through Virginia and Maryland over the past two years is expected to surge into Pennsylvania this year.

Since the beginning of the year, 44 rabies cases have been reported to the Bureau of Animal Industry, according to PDA veterinarian Dr. John Cable. Last year's total of 151 reported cases were about double the number from 1982.

Bulk of the rabies cases reported in Pennsylvania last year centered in Bedford, Franklin and Fulton counties. Franklin County had the highest incidence, with 43 cases, while Bedford reported 42, and Fulton tallied 41.

A large percentage of these cases was found in wild species of animals, primarily raccoons, but

"You don't have to be bitten by a rabid animal to contract the disease," explains York Ext. Agent Tony Dobrosky.

with fairly high numbers of bats and skunks infected as well, and only an occasional domestic pet or farm animal.

York County agricultural extension agent Tony Dobrosky has begun alerting farmers and owners of domestic pets of the

possible spread of the rabies problem into York and surrounding counties, since the outbreak is expected to continue expanding across the state.

Three cases, he says, have already been reported this year in the Dillsburg area of northern York County.

While the county agent is not necessarily recommending that farmers vaccinate whole herds of livestock, he does suggest that they might consider the vaccine injections for extremely valuable breeding stock.

"We are really urging farmers to get their cats and dogs vaccinated against rabies," stresses Dobrosky.

"And we want to remind people that they don't have to be bitten by a rabid animal to contract the

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