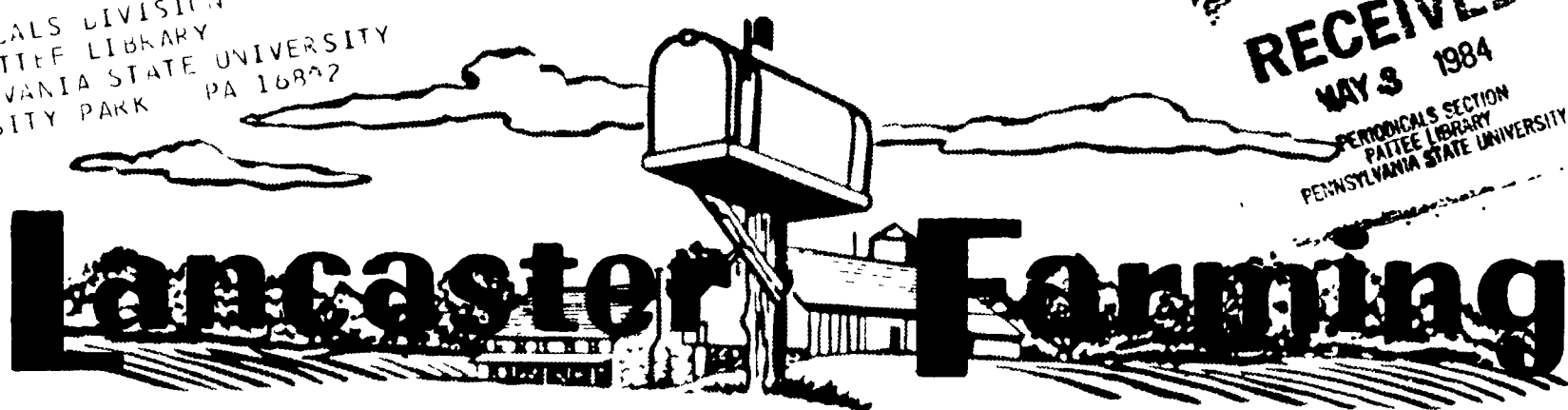


00016192240
 PERIODICALS DIVISION
 PATTEE LIBRARY
 PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
 UNIVERSITY PARK PA 16802

RECEIVED
 MAY 3 1984
 PERIODICALS SECTION
 PATTEE LIBRARY
 PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY



VOL. 29 No. 26 Four Sections Lancaster Farming, Saturday, April 28, 1984 \$7.50 per Year

Feed tax proposed to finance animal health program

Time bombs ticking away

HARRISBURG — "We have time bombs ticking away out there in Pennsylvania agriculture." This is the way that State Grange Master Charles Wismer describes the animal health situation that exists in the Commonwealth.

"One of the bombs — Avian influenza — has already gone off and look what it has cost Pennsylvania agriculture and the taxpayer," he said during remarks at the Pa. Grange legislative session on Tuesday at the Harrisburg Host Inn.

In addition to Avian, he pointed also to pseudorabies in swine and Johne's disease in dairy cattle.

"In Lancaster County alone, there are 102 dairy herds diagnosed with Johne's," Wismer said.

"It's found in Montgomery County and in Berks County one farmer has lost some 38 cows out of a herd of 70."

"And, on top of all this, there is the problem with rabies."

"Animal health is the Number One issue in Pennsylvania agriculture."

"And, those time bombs are continuing to tick away."

Representatives of both Penn State and the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School backed up Wismer's comments about the severity of the problem and the need for updated diagnostic facilities to handle such diseases.

Speaking at an animal health



Looking over animal health proposal, are Pa. Grange officials from the left, James Aurand, chairman of ag and poultry committees; Robert Pardoe, chairman of dairy committee; Vernon Cox, chairman of legislative committee; and Charles Wismer Jr., State Master.

Improved diagnostic lab, indemnity fund needs cited

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
 HARRISBURG — A comprehensive animal health program financed by a \$1-a-ton tax on feed sold in Pennsylvania to provide improved diagnostic and research veterinary facilities and a state indemnity fund was proposed in Harrisburg this week.

The proposal, put together by the Budget Committee of the Pa. State Council of Farm Organizations, was outlined at a Workshop on Animal Health held by the Pa. State Grange prior to its legislative banquet Tuesday at the Harrisburg Host Inn.

On Wednesday, the program was explained to ag legislative leaders in Harrisburg since the proposal includes a partial matching contribution of funds from the state.

Here are highlights of the animal health proposal:

—An Animal Health Commission would be created in Pennsylvania to oversee the program and funds.

The proposed tax on feed would include all feed sold in the state, including that which is produced by feed companies for their own producers.

It would also include feed sold for pets.

But it would not include bulk ingredients that a farmer grinds on his own farm to make feed.

The commercial supplements that go into on-farm feed would be included.

Since the tax would be collected at the manufacturing level, no new means of collecting would be needed. The state now collects a seven-cent-a-ton fee for inspection that includes all feed, except that provided by companies to its own producers.

But this vertically-integrated feed would not be exempt from the new tax and would be included in the animal health program.

A general breakdown of fund requirements for new and improved diagnostic and research veterinary facilities include:

— \$6.8 million to Penn State for

Milk - very much in news

HARRISBURG — Milk and dairy issues were very much in the news this week as further decisions and plans were made concerning three recent milk marketing-related programs.

Milk dealers, farm and dairy organization leaders met last week with state Agriculture Secretary Penrose Halliwell to discuss plans for a voluntary Milk Promotion and Marketing Program. The program has been proposed to allow Pennsylvania dairymen who do not ship to federally regulated handlers to participate in the state's promotional programs.

According to James Sumner, of

the state Bureau of Marketing, approximately 2,700 dairymen do not ship to federally regulated plants and "have no way to contribute to the state's promotion program." This program, Sumner explained, would allow these farmers to participate in state promotion programs by directing 10 cents of the mandatory federal 15-cent deduction per hundredweight to the promotion of Pennsylvania dairy products.

The program is scheduled to begin May 1; however, it must first be approved by the USDA.

The meetings held last week,

(Turn to Page A27)

Dobroskys — a livestock family

BY LAURA ENGLAND
 UNIVERSITY PARK — To say that York County Extension Director Anthony "Tony" Dobrosky has a special interest in youth and holds a commitment to bettering the lives of young people would be an understatement.

It is true that during his 25 years as a county agent, Dobrosky has been active in developing livestock programs and coaching 28 state winning teams in livestock, meat and horses. He has also served as a director and chairman for the Pa. Livestock Association youth committee. And, through his leadership, York County was able to construct a 4-H center.

But for Dobrosky, the commitment to youth goes much deeper than developing programs and planning activities. He is also concerned with helping young people to develop as individuals, giving them guidance and counseling.

Recently selected the Outstanding Alumnus in Animal Science by Penn State Faculty,



Tony Dobrosky, named the 1984 Distinguished Alumnus by the Penn State Block and Bridle Club, and his wife, Pat, lend continual support to daughters Laurie, front left, and Lisa as they participated in livestock-related activities.

—The \$1.00-a-ton tax on feed would include all feed sold in Pennsylvania and be collected at the manufacturing level.

—Since an estimated six million tons of feed are sold annually in Pennsylvania, the tax would yield \$6 million a year.

—Half or 50 cents of each dollar collected would go toward improving and updating veterinary diagnostic and research facilities at Penn State, New Bolton Center and the PDA's Summerdale Lab.

—This amount would be matched by the state from general fund revenues for the construction of lab facilities, updating of equipment and addition of personnel.

—The other half of the tax would be used to create an animal indemnity fund in Pennsylvania.

—When the indemnity fund reaches a level of \$10 million, a decision would be made concerning the continuation and level of feed tax contributions toward it.

(Turn to Page A29)

Vegetable market

LANCASTER — It won't be long before roadside farm markets will be filled with home-grown vegetables and produce, followed later by a rainbow of fruits.

These many roadside marketers among Lancaster Farming's readers will be interested in a new market report — The Philadelphia Wholesale Fruit & Vegetable Report — that begins today. Found on page A14, it joins our weekly, comprehensive market section.

Sure, it's been wet April, but some have been wetter

BY JACK HUBLEY
 LANCASTER — Weather cares little about the affairs of picnickers, fishermen and farmers but only the latter group has a financial stake in the whims of Mother Nature.

But as fickle as the heavens can be, a few meteorological prognostications can usually be made with confidence. Two that rarely miss the mark are, "hazy hot and humid" for July and August, and "mud-luscious and puddle-wonderful" for March and April, as the poet, e.e. cummings once labelled the spongy months.

Thus far, weekend gardeners and farmers are labelling the spring of 1984 "wonderful" with

(Turn to Page A30)