

## Animal health program

(Continued from Page A1)

lab facilities, equipment and personnel.

—\$8.7 million to the University of Pennsylvania's Veterinary School at New Bolton Center for lab facilities, equipment and personnel.

—Included in the above would be some \$1 million for traveling lab facilities to perform field work in support of the Penn State and New Bolton labs.

—\$2.4 million for Summerdale to update facilities and add personnel.

The updating of Summerdale lab facilities would be done to make it a regional facility for the entire Northeast and better serve groups such as the Holstein Association, which is engaged in international merchandising.

Chief among the modernization of lab facilities is the provision for isolation containment facilities that would permit work on highly pathogenic diseases, such as Avian influenza.

It was explained that the animal health proposal is also tied to other budgetary requests in Pennsylvania, such as the \$2 million for an Extension computer system at Penn State.

Such a system would permit close coordination of effort between Penn State, New Bolton and Summerdale and the prompt dissemination of information throughout the state.

It was pointed out that other states with much lower livestock numbers have much greater budgets for animal health, including indemnity funds.

These funds have already been utilized in other states in the prompt depopulation of poultry during the Avian influenza crisis.

In Pennsylvania no such funds were available and extra time was required until an extraordinary emergency was declared at the federal level to finance depopulation.

The Animal Health Commission, which would regulate and oversee the ongoing program, would be headed by the Secretary of Agriculture as chairman. Other members would be a representative each from Grange, Pa. Farmers Association, Pa. Farmers Union, Veterinary Medical Society, Kennel Club, plus the Secretary of Health and the deans of Penn State Ag School and Penn Veterinary School.

## Spring ram lamb test to proceed as scheduled

BY JACK HUBLEY

STATE COLLEGE — In a decision reached on Monday, the Pa. Department of Agriculture's Meat Animal Evaluation Center has elected to proceed with its spring ram lamb test.

The question of whether or not to go ahead with the test was raised during March, when only 31 nominations had been received by the last week of the month.

The deadline was then extended to April 13, and a total of 54 lambs were finally registered for the test.

In order to conduct a meaningful test, the Center had hoped for approximately 80 animals, but, according to the Center's acting director, Ed Herbst, the number of animals now participating will

be sufficient to yield valid results.

Those involved in the final decision included University personnel, sheep breeders, and the Dept. of Agriculture's Dr. Max Van Buskirk, Director of Animal Industry.

All ram lambs assigned to the test are to be delivered on May 8.

### Flying Farmers

ELIZABETHTOWN — The Pennsylvania Flying Farmers will hold their April meeting at the home of David and Joanne Sweigart, on Sunday at 1 P.M. If flying, use Elizabethtown-Marietta Airport. Transportation will be provided.

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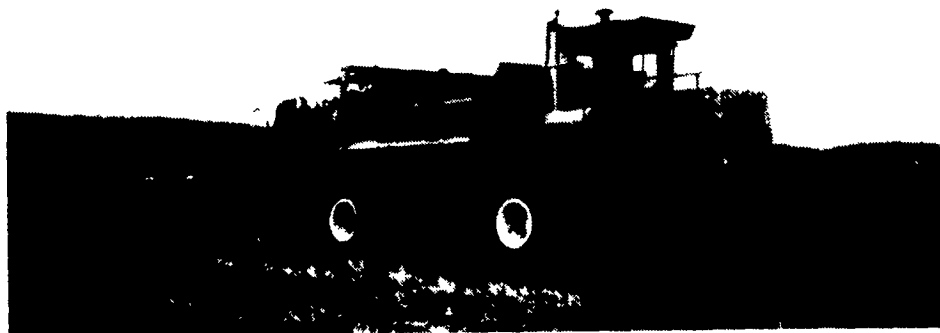


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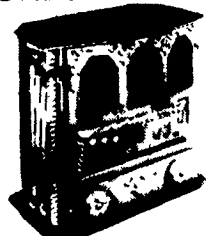
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