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Milk promotion approved; committee members named

HARRISBURG — The United States Department of Agriculture this week approved the voluntary Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Program established by state Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hollowell

The voluntary state program, which went into effect on Tuesday, has been certified for qualification so that producers may receive a credit against the mandatory 15-cent federal assessment on milk produced.

Under the state plan, dairy farmers can approve ten cents of their assessment to be set aside for promotion, marketing and nutrition education programs in Pennsylvania

Fifteen dairymen who were selected to serve on the Advisory Board for the program, held their first meeting on Tuesday. The Board will be responsible for controlling the program, including the expenditure of funds raised for advertising and promotion, nutrition education and research on milk and dairy products.

At the meeting, the board discussed the plan, got acquainted

and set the agenda for their next meeting, which is scheduled for May 31 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture office, Bob Bunte, information specialist for PDA said.

They also set up a toll-free number for farmers with questions concerning the program. The number 1-800-932-0904 is currently in operation.

At their next meeting the board will consider adding more members, Bunte said. He added that at least two other groups have expressed interest in having a representative on the board. The board will also hear reports from existing federal promotion orders and programs to assure that the programs will not overlap.

Within the next two weeks the 2,700 to 3,000 dairy farmers who do not ship to federally-regulated plants will receive forms that will allow them to participate in the state promotion program.

The 15 members that currently make up the board are R. Fenton Murphy of Ulster, Bradford County; Duane Hartzell Slippery

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Harry Roth, left, Penn State Distinguished Alumnus in Dairy Science, and Gene Love, College of Agriculture Associate Dean of Resident Education, bask in the limelight as winners in the Dairy Expo celebrity milking contest.

Dairy Expo honors AI pioneer

BY LAURA ENGLAND
UNIVERSITY PARK — Standing outside the show ring in the Penn State Ag Arena, watching 80 enthusiastic college students give it their all during the 59th Annual Dairy Exposition brought back

pleasant memories for Harry Roth. The last minute touch-ups to insure that each animal's hide gleamed with a shiny sleekness; the alert eyes focused intently on the judges, anticipating their every move and gesture; the small, soft-spoken words whispered to each cow as showman and animal marched onto the tanbark; and the bright expressions seen when one was announced as winner were all familiar to this one-time Penn State student.

Thirty years ago, Harry Roth, Landisville, experienced feelings similar to those of these 80 showmen. It was in 1954 that Roth, himself, participated in the Dairy Expo serving as overall show manager. And it was 30 years ago that Roth began building his future

career in agriculture. Named the 1984 Penn State Distinguished Alumnus in Dairy Science, Roth said he can look back on his college days and realize how important events such as the Dairy Expo are.

"All the events are just as good as the schooling," Roth said. The extra curricular activities, he explained, teach students how to get along with each other and help strengthen communications and leadership skills.

Roth said he received many benefits from his college days and is now turning around and sharing those benefits with others. Although no longer an active Penn State student, he is an active Penn State alumnus.

Realizing that the seed of tomorrow's agriculture is in

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Plenty of ag activity in Harrisburg

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
HARRISBURG — There was plenty of ag activity in the legislative chambers in Harrisburg this week and more is expected during the coming week.

A summary of what happened this week and what's due to come up includes.

The House Ag and Rural Affairs Committee will meet Wednesday morning to consider the revised H.B. 115 — the Ag Development

Bill. It has been revised to implement the \$10 million funding, which was part of the bond issue recently approved by voters in the state.

The revised bill calls for creation of an Ag Development Advisory Board to receive applications, screen and guarantee loans for three main purposes — continued farming operation, switching of an operation to a more marketable commodity or direct marketing.

The loans would not be made directly, but be guaranteed through commercial lending institutions.

The new Milk Security Bill, H.B. 1969, is expected to come up for third reading in the House on Monday and move on to the Senate for consideration. It creates the three-tiered payment system for dealers, who would pay into their

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Soil compaction - leaving deeper impression than ever

BY JACK HUBLEY
LANCASTER — "To press, join, or pack firmly together." So says the dictionary regarding the verb form of the word, compact. And for many applications, compaction is a good term.

Urban planners, auto manufacturers, and backpackers have all learned the benefits of packing various commodities — from food to people — into a smaller space.

But applying the same principle to our soil yields different results. For agricultural purposes, Dr. Dan Fritton, Penn State's professor of soil physics, defines compaction as "an increase in density occurring due to pressure." The same process used by nature to manufacture rock. But corn "as high as an elephant's eye" can't be grown on bedrock, and a farmer isn't much farther ahead trying to grow crops in compacted soil.

All plants need sufficient area to expand their root systems in order to gather both oxygen and water

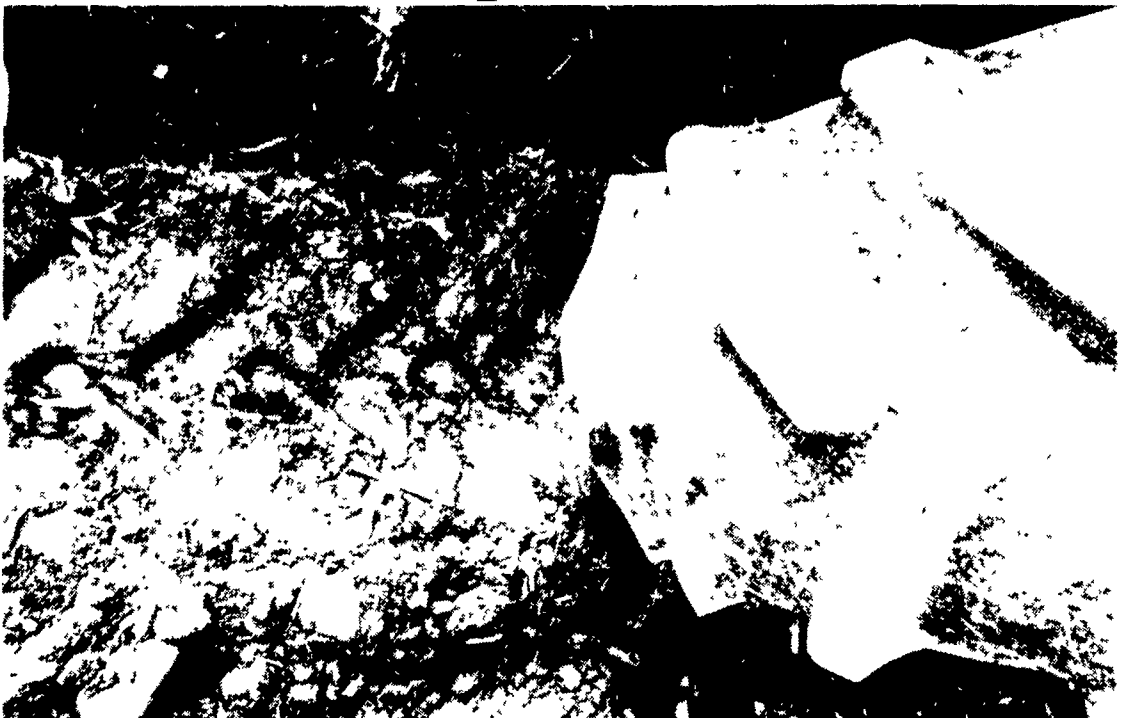
Compaction reduces a plant's ability to manufacture food by inhibiting the supply of these basic building blocks. Compacted soil also obstructs root growth, preventing the plant from reaching out to more available nutrient sources.

Through its lack of filtration ability, compacted soil may further damage root systems by creating a root-level hormone build-up.

Much of the current flat-over compaction has resulted from the move to larger field equipment and farmers, as well as equipment manufacturers who think they're compensating for the increase in size by utilizing large, cushion-type tires. According to Ohio State University extension agricultural engineer, Randall Reeder.

While a 50-horsepower tractor and a larger 200-horsepower model may both be exerting, say, 12 to 15 pounds per square inch at the surface, the large unit will sustain

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Though pressures on the surface haven't changed much over the years, deep compaction problems have increased due to the move to heavier tractors and implements.