

Grange supports prompt payments

HARRISBURG — State Grange Master Charles Wismer said the Grange is pleased that the State House Agriculture Committee reported favorably on a bill that would provide financial protection for the state's poultry farmers.

H.B. 2035, introduced by Rep. John Broujos (D-Adams), would insure prompt payment to poultry farmers under contract with processors or merchants by requiring them to pay the farmers for live birds or eggs within 14 days after their delivery to the processor. The committee passed the bill by a vote of 14-3, sending the measure on for full House consideration.

In the Pennsylvania poultry industry, poultry and egg producers often do business without any guarantee of payment. Many poultry farmers raise birds for slaughter under contract with a poultry processor where the processor owns the poultry, and the farmer is paid for his labor after the birds are fully grown and delivered to the processing plant. Many, but not all, contracts specify when payment will be made, yet some farmers have waited as long as six to eight weeks to be paid.

Under the Broujos proposal, a merchant becomes liable for payment plus interest on the 15th day after delivery is made by the farmer. A farmer who is not paid in 14 days can declare his contract void by written notice to the merchant, sell the birds on the market within 90 days, and keep the money owed him. Any money beyond the

agreed price of the birds plus the costs of selling them must be returned to the merchant. If the merchant does not comply, a farmer also may take civil action.

Broujos said the two-week payment period is "reasonable" because processors are paid by retail stores within a week after the farmer initially delivers the birds to the plant.

Rep. Roger Madigan (R-Bradford), member of the House Committee, said, "Farmers have the right to be paid promptly. What this bill actually does is reinforce normal business practices."

Wismer said poultry farmers have been victims of some merchants' abuse of the system. "Too many farmers have relied on poor contracts or handshake deals, and have been left holding the bills," he said. He said the Grange plans to push for passage of the legislation in the State House.

New handbook

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A new Extension Dairy Goat Handbook has been published and is now available from the USDA.

This is the first such handbook ever written for dairy goats. It contains chapters of helpful information on all aspects of dairy goat management and dairy goat products, written by dairy goat experts across the country.

Copies may be purchased by writing to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Cost is \$15.

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550	4'0"	6'0"	7	751	274.00
1,000	4'0"	10'8"	10	827	324.00
1,000	4'0"	10'8"	7	1,129	406.00
1,000	5'4"	6'0"	7	1,028	378.00
1,500	5'4"	9'0"	7	1,388	509.00
2,000	5'4"	12'0"	7	1,735	620.00
3,000	5'4"	17'11"	7	2,432	837.00
4,000	5'4"	23'10"	7	3,130	1055.00
5,000	8'0"	13'7"	1/4"	4,484	1821.00
6,000	8'0"	16'0"	1/4"	5,588	1926.00
8,000	8'0"	21'4"	1/4"	6,981	2414.00
10,000	8'0"	26'8"	1/4"	8,375	2847.00
10,000	10'0"	17'0"	1/4"	7,829	2610.00
12,000	8'0"	32'0"	1/4"	9,768	3310.00
12,000	10'0"	20'6"	1/4"	8,946	2969.00
12,000	10'6"	18'7"	1/4"	7,900	2978.00
15,000	8'0"	40'0"	5/16"	14,823	5003.00
15,000	10'6"	23'2"	5/16"	11,857	4575.00
20,000	10'6"	31'0"	5/16"	15,105	5716.00
25,000	10'6"	38'9"	3/8"	23,883	7600.00
30,000	10'6"	46'6"	3/8"	27,923	8800.00

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4,000	5'4"	23'10"	7	3,130	250 to 500
6,000	8'0"	16'2"	1/4"	5,123	500 to 660
8,000	8'0"	21'6"	1/4"	6,475	700 to 880
10,000	8'0"	26'8"	1/4"	8,375	1100

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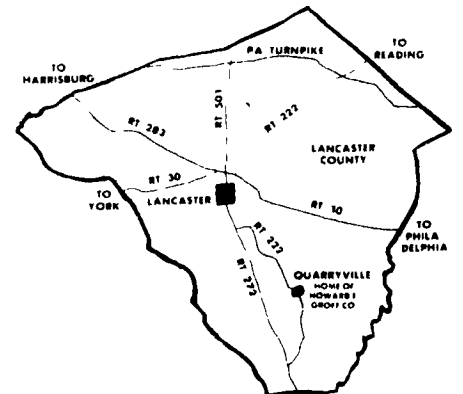
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