

Lancaster Farming

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PMMB: Pros & Cons

BY LAURA ENGLAND

HARRISBURG — Testifying before a group of senators in Harrisburg Wednesday during the sunset review of the Pa. Milk Marketing Board, PMMB chairman George Brumbaugh said the absence of the board would have a negative effect on the welfare of the commonwealth.

"The absence of Milk Marketing Board activities of regulating the price paid to producers, providing financial security to producers and enforcing the provisions of the Milk Marketing Law would have a negative impact on the public health and welfare," Brumbaugh said in reference to the findings of the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee.

Supporting the committee's findings, executive director Richard Dario said that, while the

committee supports the basic function of PMMB to maintain economic stability, it doesn't believe that deregulation of milk prices would have a negative effect on the health and welfare of the public.

"We determined that the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Law appears to contain an overly restrictive provision in establishing minimum milk wholesale and retail prices," Dario said, recommending that consideration be given to the discontinuation of mandatory milk price setting.

The comments made by Brumbaugh and Dario were part of a hearing stemming from the Sunset Law. The law provides for an audit by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee of each

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These lambs, owned by Lucy and Lou Rosen of Oxford, were the victims of two free-roaming dogs that found their way into the Rosen's barn during the early morning hours on May 9. (Photo courtesy of Deborah Chase, Chester County Press.)

Several flocks raided

Dogs and coyotes on the prowl

BY JACK HUBLEY

OXFORD — Lucy Rosen had no way of knowing what she was about to find during her early morning inspection of the sheep barn on May 9. It was 2:45 a.m. when she decided to check on a ram that she suspected might have overeaten the day before.

"That was a wet, rainy night, and the first thing I noticed were the large dog tracks in the mud," Rosen recalls.

"When I neared the barn and heard no sounds coming from the lamb pen, I knew something was wrong," she continues. "It was a very eerie sensation."

Only a few days earlier, Lucy and her husband Lou had returned from the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival where five of their Romney lambs had placed well in competition.

But the two German Shepherd-type dogs that Lucy was about to catch in the act of butchering Butternut Farm's sheep were hardly impressed with the lambs' credentials. Of the six lambs in the pen, two lay dead, and the remaining four had all been injured.

Lucy ran to the house for help, and together with her husband, managed to corral one of the dogs. With no license or other clues

concerning the animal's rightful owner, the dog was later destroyed.

Of the four injured lambs, one died the same day, and a second animal was put to sleep two days later. The final death toll: four sheep and one stray dog.

Living on their three-acre farm west of Oxford in Chester County, the Rosens are no strangers to dog-sheep confrontations. Only six weeks before

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Keith W. Eckel



Walter Martz

National milk promotion: area men and their ideas

LANCASTER — Two Pennsylvanians and one Marylander were appointed to represent Region 11 on the National Dairy Promotion Board, Secretary of Agriculture John Block announced recently.

The three appointees, leaders in their respective organizations, are Keith Eckel, president of the Pennsylvania Farmers Association; Earl R. Forwood, president of Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative; and Walter Martz, president of the Maryland and Virginia Milk

Producers Association. The three will represent Region 11, an area encompassing Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey.

For selections to the National Dairy Promotion Board, the nation was divided into 13 geographical regions with each region having one to six board members. This number was dependent on the volume of milk production represented in each region. A total of 36 members were appointed to the board.

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Stolen semen sold in Pa.

BALTIMORE — A Federal Grand Jury this week handed down indictments against two men from New Jersey and Lancaster County concerning the theft of \$300,000 in bull semen from farms in Maryland and New Jersey, which was sold to customers in Pennsylvania.

The indictments were returned on Tuesday but announced on Thursday by the U.S. Attorneys Office, Baltimore, against Jack J. Kelly Jr., 27, Atlantic Highlands, N.J. and Harry B. Zimmerman, 34, of Ronks, Lancaster County.

The indictments included counts of conspiracy, receiving stolen goods and the distribution of stolen goods in interstate commerce.

The semen included \$265,000 worth taken in Maryland and \$50,000 in New Jersey.

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Donald Lutz, Berks County farmer, brings two potted thistles to Noxious Weed meeting at Harrisburg.

Pa. updating 'weed hit list'

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
 HARRISBURG — Farmers are fed up with troublesome weeds in Pennsylvania.

And, farmers are also fed up with the lack of bureaucratic cooperation between some state agencies in, not only failing to control such weeds, but in disregarding responsibility for their introduction in sections of the state

These twin observations became apparent on Tuesday at a meeting of the Pa. Noxious Weed Committee — one of the first since the Commonwealth legislated an official "horticultural hit list" about a year ago.

Purpose of this week's meeting, attended by only two of the five members of the committee, was to

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Things to look for:

This Week — Soil Stewardship Week —

What does it mean? See the A Section.

Next Week — The Future — What

does it hold? See the Dairy Issue June 2.