

Farm loan details worked out

HARRISBURG — State Rep. Samuel Morris this week hailed an agreement worked out by legislative leaders to create an agricultural loan fund as part of a \$190 million state economic

development plan. The economic program, to be funded with the issuance of state bonds, would allocate \$10 million for agricultural investment and would enable family farms to

qualify for interest deferrals of loan guarantees for working capital, equipment, machinery and buildings.

Loans could be obtained in amounts up to \$200,000 for buildings and lesser amounts for other purposes with as much as 90 percent of the loan guaranteed by the state.

Morris said leaders of both the House and Senate worked out the details of the economic development package on Tuesday. Legislation covering the elements of the program, including the agricultural development loans, was introduced in both the House and Senate Wednesday.

Other components of the program include bills to establish a formal Pennsylvania Economic Revitalization Fund to receive a disburse bond issue proceeds, an infrastructure loan and grant program, an engineering and technical school equipment program and a small business incubator grant and loan fund.

Also included are bills to establish a Pennsylvania Youth Conservation Corps, a community capitalism investment program, a capital loan fund, new methods of minority business aid and a Recreational Improvement and Rehabilitation Act.

Morris, who is chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, said the farm loan program is similar to one he proposed over a year ago to help families cope with the enormous costs of modern farming.

"While there are differences in this plan and the one I earlier proposed, I believe this is an important step in the right direction," said the Chester County Democrat.

"After it has been in effect we'll be able to see if it is doing the job it's intended to do. If not we can change it and perhaps even broaden it if there's a need to expand the loan program."

Morris said much of the credit for the program belongs to a Somerset County legislator, state

Rep. Bill Lloyd, who did a great deal of research on the problems of farm finance and their solutions.

Sero + flocks to go

LANCASTER — The Avian Influenza Task Force has announced it has received authorization to begin depopulation of serologically positive flocks. "In order to complete the eradication of avian influenza in the quarantine area and make the lifting of the quarantine possible disposition of such sero-positive flocks is essential," according to Dr. L.D. Konya, incoming Task Force Director.

USDA has received word from the federal Office of Management and Budget that at an additional \$5 million has been allocated for idemnity and operational costs in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Authorization was also received to provide affected farmers and producers the option of

depopulating either immediately with idemnity, or thorough controlled marketing to slaughter prior to Sept. 1, 1984.

Serologically positive flocks are those flocks with antibodies present which indicates a history of exposure to the virus.

Of 62 serologically positive flocks, 45 are under investigation, and 17 have expressed a desire to be depopulated as soon as possible. Each sero-positive flock will be evaluated for clinical, epidemiologic and/or laboratory evidence prior to classification as having been infected with lethal avian influenza.

Now is the Time

(Continued from Page A10)

placed on the surface of the soil around the plants and lightly raked in.

After you've applied the plant food to the soil, it should be soaked in with rain or a healthy watering. Larger plants, of course, may be given a larger amount of plant food.

Once a plant is firmly and fully established, and in good growing condition, then it may not need regular fertilizer application.

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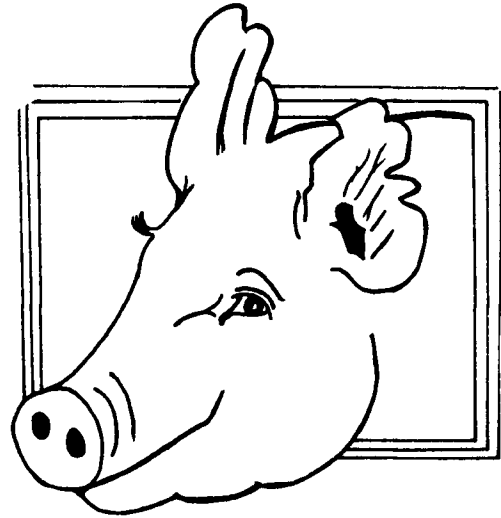
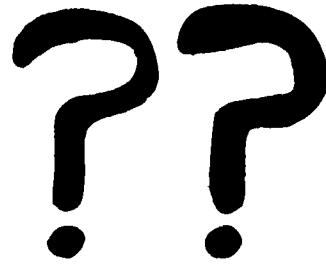


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