

Milk security fund, promotion bill receive committee's consideration

HARRISBURG — Changes to the present Milk Security Fund Act and a new milk promotion program were the subjects considered by the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee at a meeting Monday in Harrisburg.

The two pieces of legislation dealing with the dairy industry were House Bill 1969, the new milk security fund bill, and Senate Bill 1414, a bill which provides for a dairy promotions program within the Department of Agriculture.

House Bill 1969, introduced by Rep. Sam Morris, a Chester County dairyman, was reported out of committee as amended. The amendments were necessary as

committee chairman Sen. Edward W. Helfrick (R-27) said:

"Through amendatory language we hope to tighten up the definition of milk, add language to spell out that the security fund cannot be considered an asset of a bankrupt dealer and made available to all general creditors, and prohibit felons from obtaining milk dealer's licenses within five years of their conviction."

Helfrick reported that he personally met with dairy industry leaders this past week to take a final look at House Bill 1969. "It was a most valuable meeting and we were able to pinpoint several potential problem areas in the

version of the bill passed by the House on May 15."

Helfrick said that based on the comments of those in the dairy industry who he met with, he believes the amendments meet with the approval of those involved.

Senate Bill 1414, which will establish a Dairy Products Promotion Program without the redtape of a referendum, was reported out of committee and could possibly be voted on Monday. The bill, introduced by Sen. Noah Wenger (R-36), will be funded from the current federal 15-cent dairy promotion and research checkoff which is paid by the dairy

farmers for every 100 pounds of milk sold.

The bill will ensure that those dairy farmers who want to keep 10 cents of their money working for milk promotion in Pennsylvania will reap the benefits of their contribution. "In amending the Pennsylvania Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act, Senate Bill 1414 for the first time allows for these voluntary contributions for promotion and marketing in Pennsylvania to be done without a referendum," Wenger said.

"With passage of this legislation,

there will be a state statute providing for a dime of our dairy farmers' fifteen cent contribution to the Federal Dairy Promotion Program to stay here, helping us sell more Keystone State milk products," Wenger added.

Wenger emphasized that this voluntary promotion program in Pennsylvania will terminate when the federal program is discontinued unless extended by a referendum vote from the dairy industry.

Currently, the Department of

(Turn to Page A38)

Mystery Tipper program continues

STATE COLLEGE — The "Mystery Tipper" program, initiated by the Pa. Holstein Association, has been underway for two weeks with \$6,000 currently pledged by agribusinesses and individuals.

The program, which sponsors \$10 tips to Pennsylvania waitresses and waiters who offer milk to their customers, has received the support of several agribusiness and individuals throughout the state. These include the following:

Agribusinesses are Atlantic Dairy Association; American Breeders Service; Berks County Dairy Farmers Association; Brookfield Dairy; Carnation Genetics; Clarion County Holstein Association; Cobra-Select Sires

Inc.; Clearfield County Holstein Club; Farm Credit of Chester County; and Farmshine.

Also Galen Martin Inc.; Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative; Kissinger, Leonard and Brown Realtors; Lancaster Farming; Milk Marketing Inc.; Pa. Brown Swiss Breeders Association; Pa. Farmers Association; Pa. Holstein Association; Pennbank; Pennfield Feeds; Rib-L-Brook Farm; Sire Power Inc.; Southeast Farm Credit Service; Taurus Service Inc.; Terry Swartz, Special Sires Inc.; and V.T. Smith Dairy and Producers.

Individuals and dairy groups include Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell; Donald Ackerman; A. Hess Brubaker;

Galen Furry; Dr. Richard McFeely; James Proctor; Paul Ritchey Jr.; Julius Replogle; Vernon R. Umble; Alma Zeager; and Carl Zeager.

Also Chester County Milk Promotion Committee; Crawford County Dairy Promotion Committee; Lancaster County Dairy Promotion Committee; Lebanon County Dairy Promotion Committee; Montgomery County Dairy Promotion Committee; Somerset County Dairy Promotion Committee; York County Dairy Princess and Promotion Committee; Warren County Dairy Promotion Committee; and Washington County Dairy Promotion and Princess Committee.

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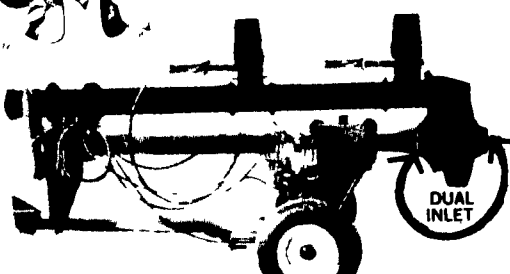
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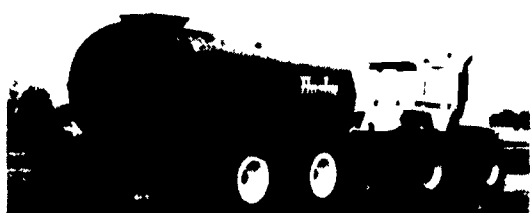


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