

Additional Avian C & D funds requested

HARRISBURG — The need for additional cleanup and disinfection reimbursement was a key topic discussed during a joint House-Senate Agriculture Committee meeting concerning avian influenza on Tuesday.

Although \$2,000,000 had been made available earlier this year to aid stricken Pa. poultry farmers in their cleanup efforts, it was noted that less than \$3,000 of this appropriation will remain after July 1.

The need for additional CxD funding became evident after a recent decision was made by USDA to rid the state of all "suspicious" flocks containing birds with positive serology.

Serologically positive birds are those having flu antibodies indicating past exposure to the virus. USDA has determined that such

birds must be removed before the remaining quarantine can be lifted.

About 43 serologically positive flocks still exist within the quarantine area, and farmers can choose between immediate depopulation with indemnity, or controlled marketing (slaughter) to be completed by September 1.

If approved, the additional CxD

monies would be made available through the Agriculture Department's portion of the state's general appropriations budget.

According to Warren Lamb, executive director of the House Agriculture Committee, the conference committee negotiating on the budget will probably announce its decision on CxD funding next week.

Milk production down slightly from last year

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania milk production during May totaled 840 million pounds, down one percent from last year, according to the Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

The number of milk cows in the commonwealth during May averaged 718,000 head, down 15,000 head from a year ago. Milk production per cow averaged 1,170 pounds in May, up 15 pounds per

cow from a year ago.

United States milk production during May totaled 12.3 billion pounds, down three percent from the previous year. Total milk cows

averaged 10.9 million head, 256,000 less than May 1983. Production per cow averaged 1,132 pounds, six pounds less than a year earlier.

Scheps denied license

HARRISBURG — The Pa. Milk Marketing Board Thursday denied a license-renewal request from Schep's Cheese Company in Bradford County.

In denying the company's request, the board cited Schep's inability to pay producers and creditors. The company

owes \$6 million to approximately 250 dairy farmers and \$14 million to another 100 creditors.

Schep's Cheese closed its Bradford County last July while still owing money to producers. The Bradford plant bought milk from Pennsylvania producers and sold it to Scheps for its cheese production.

Pasture tour

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Bosworth pointed out the advantages of Brassica crops such as the rape and turnips planted on the MacCauley farm to be utilized by their herd of Suffolk sheep.

With a crude protein content of 18 to 25 percent and a digestibility rate of up to 95 percent, Brassicas are an excellent, high quality ration, Bosworth pointed out. He also stated that their low water requirements make Brassicas an excellent emergency forage in times of drought.

Bosworth noted that Brassicas grazed to a height of not less than five inches will regenerate sufficiently for continued grazing in as little as four weeks. The use of movable fencing was recommended to properly regulate grazing pressure.

On the subject of planting, Dr. Jung recommended establishing Brassica crops in sod during mid-May, with nitrogen applied at a rate of about 75 pounds per acre.

But Jung noted that, even when planted in August and harvested in November, turnips produce as much energy per acre as an acre of corn yielding 115 bushels.

Because of their high energy and low fiber content, Dr. Jung stated that Brassicas should be used as a high-energy supplement, accounting for not more than two-thirds of an animal's diet. He also added that the MacCauleys have found this high energy level particularly useful for flushing their ewes.

"For fall forage production, I don't know of any crop that can 'turn it on' like Brassicas," Jung concluded.

Various types of Brassica crops, including turnips, rape, swedes and kale, are currently being grown and evaluated for use by southeast Pennsylvania livestock producers. Plots are established in Chester, Berks, Bucks, Lehigh and Northampton Counties.

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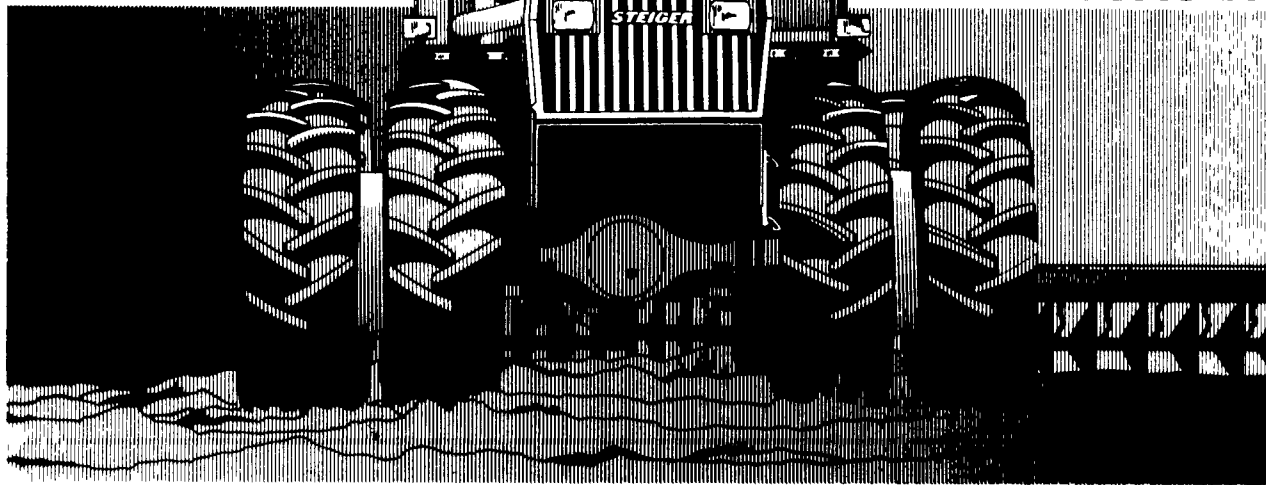
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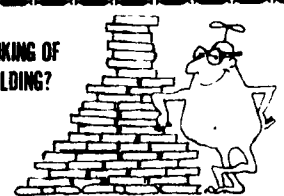
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