

Bill would amend farm realty tax

HARRISBURG — Legislation of importance to family farms in Pennsylvania was reported unanimously out of the Senate Finance Committee on June 26, reports Senator Noah W. Wenger, R-36, prime sponsor of the bill.

"Preserving the family farm in Pennsylvania is one of the most important jobs we have here in the legislature," comments Wenger, who serves as vice-chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Rural

Affairs Committee. "This bill will be another tool farmers can use to keep their farms in agriculture."

Senate Bill 1005 amends the state's Tax Reform Code to exempt family farms from having to pay the realty transfer tax when the farm is transferred from a sole proprietor family member to a family farm corporation. Currently the law requires this transfer tax to be paid, explains Wenger.

"So that this legislation is used for the purpose for which it was intended, we've built in a requirement that none of the family farm corporation's stock can be sold to a non-family member," says the senator. "If that ever happens within a period of ten years from the time the farm is incorporated, the tax exemption status is lost and the corporation will have to pay the transfer fee."

According to the state's

Department of Revenue figures, the amount of tax revenues that will be lost through this tax exemption for family farm corporations amounts to \$350,000.

"That's a small price to attach to a law that will ensure all Penn-

sylvanians will have a fresh and abundant supply of food for generations to come as our family farmers continue to feed our state, the nation, and the world by tilling our fertile Pennsylvania soils," concludes Wenger.

Senate Bill 1005 will now be considered by the full Senate.

Red meat drops 1 percent

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, during May totaled 79.6 million pounds, down one percent from May 1983, according to the Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Reporting service.

Beef slaughter, at 94.5 million pounds liveweight, was up five percent from May 1983. Total head slaughtered was 83,700, up six percent. Liveweight averaged 1,128 pounds, a decrease of 11 pounds. Veal slaughter was 3.5 million pounds liveweight, down 10 percent. Calf slaughter at 19,800 head was down eight percent, and the average liveweight decreased four pounds to 176 pounds.

Hog slaughter, at 36 million pounds liveweight, was down 10 percent from a year earlier. Total head slaughtered at 153,400, was down 11 percent, and average liveweight decreased four pounds to 235 pounds. Lamb and mutton slaughter was 1.5 million pounds liveweight, up nine percent. The

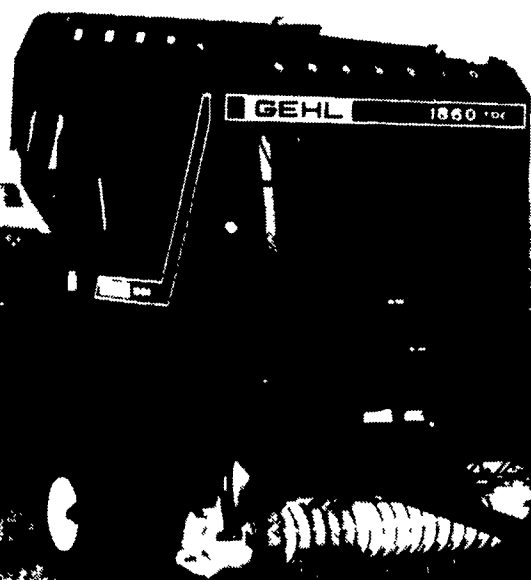
number slaughtered, at 14,900 was up six percent, and the average liveweight increased three pounds to 101 pounds.

U.S. commercial red meat production in May totaled 3.41 billion, up eight percent from May 1983.

U.S. beef production at 4.06 billion pounds was up 11 percent from last May. Total head killed, at 3.3 million, was up 12 percent, while average liveweight decreased three pounds to 1,063. Veal production, at 39 million pounds, increased 22 percent from a year ago. Calf slaughter at 255,000 head was up 19 percent, with an average liveweight increase of three pounds to 257.

U.S. pork production in May totaled 1.28 billion pounds, up three percent from a year ago. The 7.37 million head killed was up three percent, and average liveweight remained unchanged at 245. Lamb and mutton production increased three percent to 31 million pounds.

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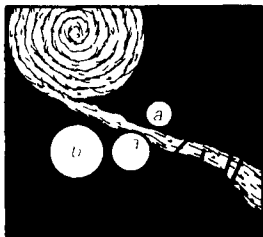


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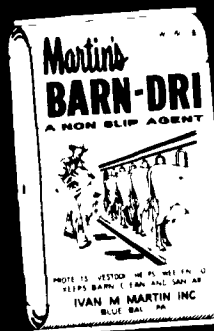
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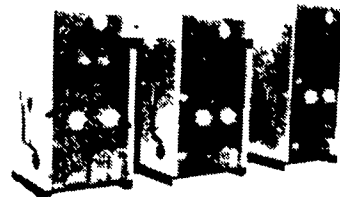
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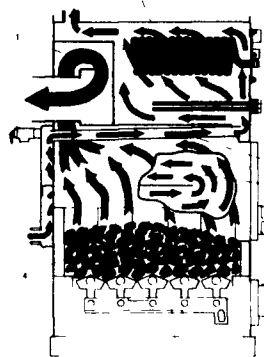
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