Grange to hold poultry conference on July 26

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania State Grange is sponsoring a conference for poultry farmers on July 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center, located near the junction of Rt. 30 and Rt. 72, Lancaster.

Entitled, "Where's the Family Poultry Farmers' Future?", the conference will feature several guest speakers who will discuss the projections for the poultry industry in Pennsylvania and ways in which family poultry farmers can plan their financial survival in an industry that is rapidly moving towards large corporate conglomerates.

Edward Krebs, PhD in agricultural economics, a farmowner and economic consultant for small business and farm management problems, will present an ecomomic overview of the industry and give his forecast for the Pennslyvania owner-operator in the poultry business. Krebs is a former economist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The importance of computer records for cost savings and the computer's role small poultry operations will be discussed by Master Farmer Claude Hess, owner and operator of the Dutch Dozens poultry complex in Lancaster County. In addition, Dr. Robert Eckroade, poultry pathologist with the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Animal Health Center, will discuss animal disease control and avian influenza research, to be followed by information on fumigating poultry houses for disease control presented by Galen Young of Elmtree Poultry Service.

The conference will conclude with an update on legislative activity relating to the poultry industry and avian influenza led by Ronald Shaffer, State Grange poultry consultant, and an open discussion on what the Grange as a farm organization can do to assure the survival of the family poultry farmer chaired by State Grange Master Charles Wismer.

The conference is open to the general public as well as poultry farmers and is free of charge. Refreshments will be served by the Lancaster County granges following the meeting. Advance reservations are not necessary.

For further information, call the Grange toll-free at 1(800)242-9661.

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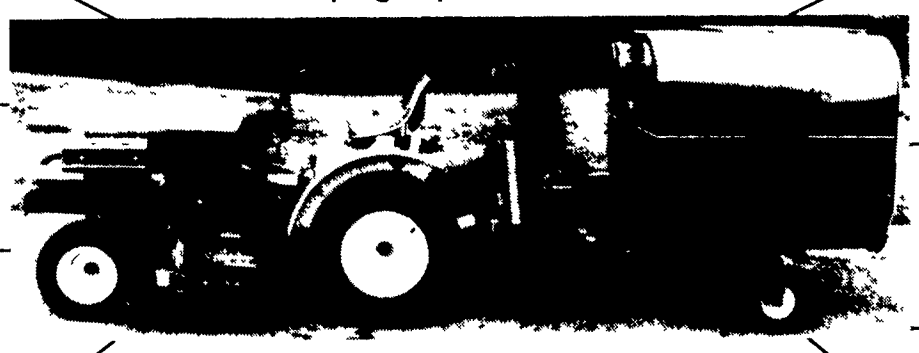

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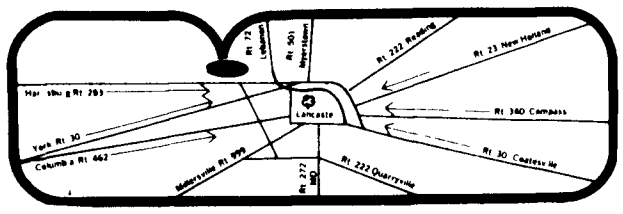

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PDA to name poultry group

HARRISBURG — State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell has announced plans to establish a Poultry Health Advisory Committee to consider poultry research priorities and the development of statewide poultry health rules.

Hallowell said formation of the committee would "provide a broad range of input into the very important decisions we have on how best to protect the future of the state's $400 million poultry industry.

"Avian influenza has had a crippling effect on this major segment of our economy," the Secretary said. "The Poultry Health Advisory Committee, composed of independent producers, integrators, scientists, agribusinesses and others in the poultry industry, will provide a good balance and make informed recommendations for future efforts in poultry research as well as needs for health rules to prevent similar epidemics in the future."

The Agriculture Department's 1984-85 budget includes a special line item appropriation of $500,000 for poultry research and promotion, funding requested by Governor Thornburgh in February. "With the budget now law, we are in a position to consider priorities for research which will help the industry recover from avian influenza and protect it from any future outbreak," Hallowell said.

"Many questions about avian influenca, its spread and its prevention remain unanswered," he said. "Hopefully, through the input of the various facets of the poultry industry, we can use these state funds to support research which will begin to provide answers and prevent a recurrence."

Plans are now being made to hold the committee's first meeting in early August. Hallowell said the work of the committee could lay a solid foundation for the future of this important agricultural industry.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has already provided $34,500 to two Pennsylvania universities to begin research on avian influenza, through the state's Agricultural Research Committee.

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