

Egg marketing order discussed

BY JUDY HULL

Staff Correspondent

GETTYSBURG — Concerns about preserving the small family farmer and maintaining a voice in the decision making process were discussed Wednesday at a meeting of representatives of the poultry industry in Adams County where the United Egg Producers' proposed marketing order for eggs was reviewed.

John Hoffman, executive director of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation, told the group he is certain there will be problems getting producers involved in the marketing order at the national level. He guaranteed them, however, that producers will not be shut out.

"A marketing order is controlling production," he said. "This is right down your alley."

In reviewing the proposed order, the group expressed concern about the 18-person board which could administer the marketing order. They questioned the nominating process and asked about the power of the secretary of agriculture to appoint members to the board.

Discussion was held on the voting procedure that could be

used to adopt the marketing order. The present proposal would require two-thirds of the producers voting to pass, or 51 percent of the producers voting with two-thirds of the volume. Such a stipulation could, according to the group, result in the small producer having no say. The consensus was, one producer, one vote.

Under the research and promotion section of the proposed order one possible provision calls for the assessment on producers of one cent per dozen of eggs, with the money to go for research and promotion. Those attending Wednesday's meeting stated they felt one cent to be too high.

"What are they going to do with all of that money," more than one person asked. They also questioned whether research and promotion even need to be included in the marketing order, since, according to the group, the American Egg Board already has a national referendum on research and promotion.

Proposed sections on surplus removal and quantity control were debated at length. The consensus was that egg and hen removal should be tied together under

surplus removal and that participation in the removal program should be mandatory and not voluntary, as the proposed order states.

However, the big question in discussing these two areas was, what is going to preserve the small family farmer, surplus removal or quantity control.

Bill Murray, Adams County extension agent, said the proposal

is asking poultrymen to choose one area. "Surplus removal gives you the flexibility to add birds as long as there is no surplus. Under quantity control you can't do that," he said.

Hoffman added that quantity control protects the family farmer, but said he feels it is the one section everyone will reject on the question of base. "What year do you base it on?" he asked.

Wayne judges announced

HONESDALE — Judges for the agricultural exhibits at the Wayne County Fair have been announced by the Agricultural Extension Service. Judging junior and open class vegetables on Tuesday, August 7 will be Alfred Skala, County Agricultural Agent, Luzerne County; William Kleiner, County Agent, Lackawanna County; and Paul Craig, County Agricultural Agent, Monroe County.

Ralph Sands, Holstein breeder from Wyoming County will judge the Junior Dairy Show on Wednesday, August 8, beginning at 9:30 a.m. At 1:00 p.m. the same day Tim Livingston, beef breeder

from Dover, Pa., York County will judge the Junior Beef Show.

On Thursday, August 9 Clyde Meyers, County Agricultural Agent from Berks County will judge the Junior Swine Show beginning at 9 a.m. and the Open Beef Show at 1 p.m. At 10 a.m. on August 9 James Diamond, Assistant Professor of Agricultural

The group also expressed concern about the short amount of time poultrymen have been given to comment on the proposed order. According to Murray, UEP hopes to have the document submitted to USDA by early fall. The group decided that a united effort must be made by local agricultural groups if their concerns are to be heard at the national level.

Extension Education at Penn State will judge the Junior Sheep Show.

Dennis Wolff, of Penn Cole farms, Columbia County will judge the Open Dairy Show at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, August 10 while at the same time Clyde Brubaker, sheep breeder from Lancaster County will judge the Open Sheep Show.

Farm Bill

(Continued from Page A1)

pointed out. "I think a policy that guarantees everyone success is bad for agriculture. We still need a safety net but not a guarantee."

How will the Farm Bill affect dairy operations in the Northeast?

"I think a system of annually adjustable price supports will provide a fairly stable dairy industry," Durando said. "But we've still got to eliminate a million cows, and down the road we'll need fewer and fewer cows as higher yielding animals come on board."

Going one step further, Eckel asserted that the necessary reduction in cows will also mean the loss of some dairy farmers. But due to Pennsylvania's advantages in terms of location and production efficiency, Eckel predicted that the number of Keystone State dairymen would remain relatively stable.

Durando then pointed out that price supports aren't always a necessary evil.

"About one-half of production agriculture receives no direct price assistance," Durando stated. "And in spite of this, we have no shortage of commodities such as beef, hogs, fruits and vegetables, nor of producers of these commodities."

Turning to the subject of grains, Durando called for loan rates that are "market clearing in nature, and relative to world price."

Eckel underscored the importance of exports to the American farmer, emphasizing that we cannot develop more markets without being competitive on the world market. He remarked that a sufficient number of markets exist for American products, but, as yet, many of them still don't have the ability to pay.

"If we want to really improve the picture, we might find it more comfortable to support aid programs to underdeveloped nations," the PFA president said. "The demand is there, and even though the ability to pay is not there right now, sometime it will happen. Perhaps a very aggressive ag policy would be to support those nations."

Though much of the discussion centered on dairy farming in the Northeast, Durando pointed out that all farm programs are interrelated and that all farmers have a very important stake in the making of the bill.

Stressing the importance of input from all sectors of agriculture, PFA administrative secretary Richard Newpher observed that, in the past, the Northeast has not been active enough politically in structuring a farm bill prior to its passage.

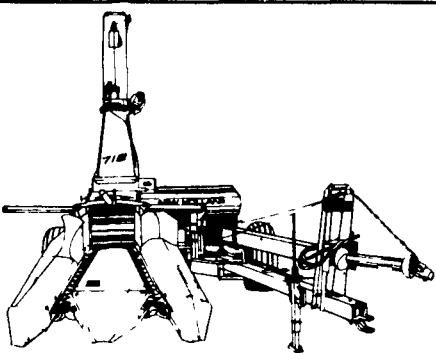
"Certainly it's going to be a compromise, but the Northeast has a stake, and we have to remember that this bill will be the primary rule for agriculture for the next four years," Newpher said.

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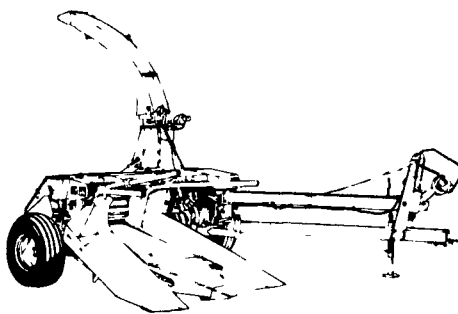
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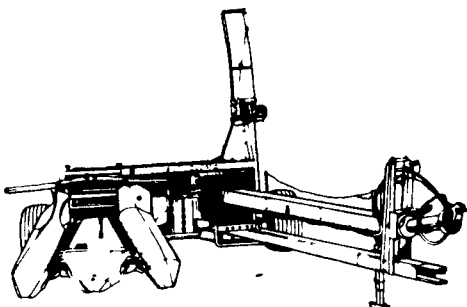
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