

Offers prescription for sick Fed. budget

Rep. Robert Walker is 'down on the farm' during tour

BY JACK HUBLEY
BRUNNERVERVILLE — Foreign investors and imports were among the key issues raised by concerned farmers who met with U.S. Representative Robert Walker at the Paul B. Kline farm north of Lititz on Monday.

"We're in a tough position if we shut down our foreign markets," Walker responded, pointing out that our relationship with foreign countries is a two-way street and that our current farm economy is dependent on exports. "What we ought to do is insist that foreign products meet our own health standards," he added.

Addressing a question raised concerning the influx of foreign money in the poultry industry, Walker reminded farmers that the infusion of \$80 billion in foreign capital for government bonds last year was important to the economy. He ventured that restricting farm ownership, as practiced in some states, might be one way of keeping farms in the hands of American farmers.

Leap-frogging across rural Lancaster and Lebanon Counties on Monday, the Congressman began his tour at the farm of Donald Hershey in Manheim, moving to the Kline farm, and then

on to the Clay View Farm of Kerry Boyd near Ephrata. The afternoon itinerary included two Lebanon County stops.

Asked if a balanced budget was a possibility, Walker stated that the elusive black ink could become a reality with monetary reform. He called for the money supply to be pegged to real, marketable commodities.

Lashing out at the Fed and chairman Paul Volker, the Congressman said that the best way to catch up to the Japanese would be to put Volker in charge of their economy.

Walker maintained that the U.S. economy is prime for growth, and that such growth was the vehicle to a balanced budget. The other key component in the formula, Walker said, is a balanced budget amendment aimed at keeping Congressional spending in line.

Other topics discussed included the 1985 Farm Bill, a decrease in farmland values since the late 1970's, the Chesapeake Bay and livestock disease problems including pseudorabies and avian flu.

The Congressman urged farmers to stay abreast of developments in the Bay cleanup, since Lancaster and York County



U.S. Representative Robert Walker addressed a group of 20 concerned farmers at the Paul Kline farm in Brunnerville on Monday morning. The Kline pullet farm was one of five stops on the Congressman's Lancaster-Lebanon County tour.

agriculture is being asked to shoulder a large part of the responsibility for the Bay's deterioration.

When questioned on the status of

the avian flu indemnity program, the Congressman stated that the program was rapidly coming to a close. He said that a few individual

cases were being reviewed by the Department of Agriculture and the General Accounting Office where reimbursement had apparently been insufficient.

Sheep parasite found

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A microscopic parasite has been confirmed for the first time as a widespread cause of sheep abortions in the United States, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist said today.

Abortions in 16 flocks of sheep in Iowa, Maryland, Montana, Minnesota and South Dakota have been traced to the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, which causes one-time abortions in sheep, said Jitender P. Dubey, a microbiologist in USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

"Up to now, toxoplasmosis-induced abortions have been reported in only one other case," Dubey said. He is stationed at the research agency's Beltsville, Md., Agricultural Research Center.

Dubey said the parasite is well known as a cause of sheep abortions in other countries, but until recently it was not considered a problem in U.S. sheep flocks.

Dubey said that for a ewe to abort from toxoplasmosis she must contract it when she is pregnant. After a ewe is infected the first time, she will not abort again even if reinfected.

A ewe's immune defenses control the growth of the parasites, the researcher said. These parasites remain in the body tissues as cysts, where they cause no further harm.



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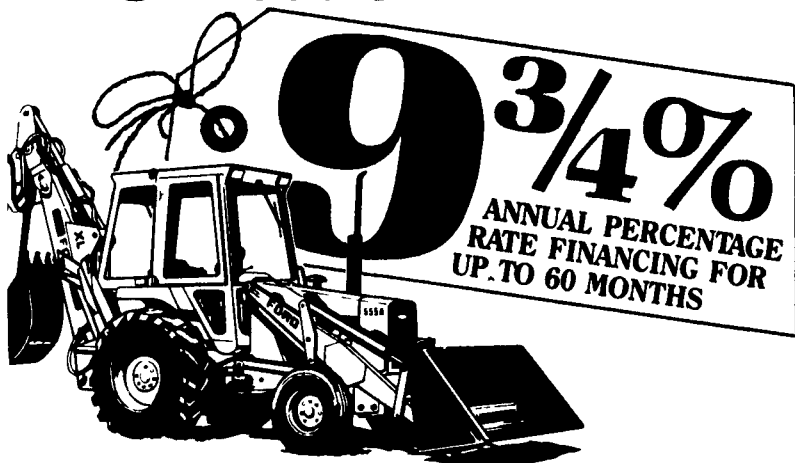
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