

Farm Bill ideas cited

HARRISBURG — The nation's general farm organizations will have a stronger role in the development of the 1985 Farm Bill than they did in 1981, according to James Miller, assistant legislative director for the National Grange. Miller spoke before the legislative, agriculture and dairy committees of the Pennsylvania State Grange at a pre-session policy meeting in Carlisle.

Miller pointed to the fact that the 1985 Farm Bill is not going to be written on a commodity by commodity basis, and therefore a more general approach to farm policy will be taken. "This farm bill is going to be different," he said. "There will be more actors involved in its development than ever before."

The new farm legislation will cover everything from price supports to food stamps, Miller said. "As a result, some very innovative things are likely to come out of it," he predicted. He said ideas being touted in Washington circles range from requiring more cross compliance on conservation

programs, to eliminating research designed to increase farm productivity, to developing a direct farm subsidy program based on a farmer's means.

The dairy price support program is also certain to be a subject for debate, according to Miller. "The result is going to be a free for all or

a crap-shoot at best," he said.

Whatever dangers some of the more innovative concepts may pose to farmers, the current climate also opens the door for family farmers to make their case, Miller said. "There's not a while lot of difference between the Republican and Democratic agricultural platforms," he pointed out.

Ag bills

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duties are included in legislation that it be continued.

Senate legislation to continue both groups requires approval of that group and then similar action in the House. If time does not permit, both agencies could be retained by resolution, which would require only a day for action.

Right to Know

Noah Wenger, farmer-senator from Lancaster County, was the center of attention on Right to Know legislation as chairman of the Labor and Industry Committee. Wenger was leading the

effort to amend legislation passed in the House which carried stringent regulations concerning chemicals that would affect farming operations. Some of these major amendments were concerned with labeling equipment such as drills and sprayers, posting of a central location for employes instead of every field receiving chemical applications, definition of a manufacturer that would not include a farmer just because he mixed chemicals and limiting information to be supplied emergency crews to major hazardous substances.

Any such changes would also require House concurrence.

Timber Theft

A bill to raise penalties for timber theft may be tied to controversial Senate legislation concerning marital rape.

Ag Products Commission

There's a Senate bill to create an Ag Products Development Commission to oversee the promotion of Pennsylvania agricultural products in a manner similar to that of other states. Since it entails a \$100,000 appropriation, it requires Appropriations Committee action.

Property Tax Exemptions

There is pending legislation to exclude grains bins and corn crips from property taxes in order to standardize regulations throughout the state. In some counties, they are taxed and in some they are not.

Poultry Payments

There's a House bill requiring that poultry contracts contain provisions for prompt payment to farmers — 14 days or a time period of mutual agreement between the buyer and seller.

Hog co-ops

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other and would serve separate parts of the state.

Concerning the A and B plant effort, a session was held on Monday among hog producers in Adams County. The proposed co-op's steering committee was also scheduled to meet this week to select an attorney for the drafting of agreements and other paperwork.

In the A and B co-op, hog producers are being asked to put up \$1,000 to provide seed money for the application for state-backed funds for the proposed plant purchase.

It is expected that a session will be called in the near future among enrolled hog producers to proceed with the co-op formation.

This week's session of debtors with claims in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy of A and B before a federal judge in Reading included a 37 percent payment to hog producers who are still owed money for livestock.

It was at this session that it was announced the co-op group has appeared as the most likely purchaser of the plant.

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Mon., Oct. 1 - 3 Diesel Tractors, Farm Machinery, Dauphin Co. Earl & Evelyn Dehney
Thurs., Oct. 4 - 53 Acre Farm, Lanc Co. 2 Mile Southeast of Intercourse Sarah Fisher
Sat., Oct. 6 - Real Estate 1 Mile North of White Horse. Wilmer & Sara Stoltzfoos.
Sat., Oct. 13 - Full Line of Cabinet Making Equipment Aaron & Rebecca Fisher
Sat., Oct. 20 - Estate of Elmer Roher, 2 Miles East of Strasburg
Sat., Oct. 27 - Benefit Auction at Good's Auction
Sat., Nov. 3 - Benefit Auction for Linville Hill School
Sat., Nov. 17 - 85 Acre Farm and Machinery, Lanc Co Christian K Lapp Estate

For Complete Auctions

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