

State dairy program seeks federal order participant addresses

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program Advisory Board is seeking addresses of federal order dairy farmers who contribute to the state program in order to send them copies of the Board's newsletters, according to State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell, chairman of the program's Advisory Board.

"We feel it is important that dairymen know and understand how their 10 cent check-off is being used to promote Pennsylvania milk and dairy products," Hallowell said. "This newsletter is a forum for the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program Advisory Board to inform and

educate its financial supporters." However, Hallowell said that names and addresses of federal order dairymen who have earmarked their 10 cents for the state program are not available from the federal order market administrators. He urged those farmers who wish to receive the bi-monthly newsletter to contact the state Department of Agriculture.

More than 2,500 farmers received the newsletter's first mailing in late October. These farmers contribute to the program directly or through non-order dealers who provide the Advisory Board with access to addresses, Hallowell said.

Dairymen who wish to receive

the newsletter should call or write the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Markets, 2301 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9406, telephone (717) 787-4210. The producer should provide full name, address, county and zip code by November 25. The producer does not have to identify either the dealer or cooperative where he ships his milk.

Hallowell said the second issue of the newsletter is scheduled for late November.

The Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program was created under provisions of the National Dairy Promotion Program. Federal legislation passed in 1983 established a mandatory deduction

of 15 cents per hundredweight on all milk produced in the continental United States, to promote milk and dairy product sales. Qualifying state programs like

Pennsylvania's may receive 10 cents of the assessment for use in local and regional promotion programs.

Sludge caution reported

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Amending agricultural land with municipal sewage sludge can add nutrients and organic matter to a farmer's soil.

But sewage sludge containing high levels of heavy metals may prove damaging to some crops, especially those that manufacture their own nitrogen.

According to researchers at The University of Maryland, sludges low in heavy metal concentrations

are actually beneficial to nitrogen fixing legumes such as soybeans.

But soybeans grown on low pH soils and amended with heavy metal-rich sludge suffered a reduction of nitrogen fixating activity, according to agronomists Joseph R. Heckman and Jay S. Angle.

Their longterm study also shows that soybean tissues accumulated larger amounts of the metals zinc and cadmium, say Heckman and Angle.

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