

# Grange speaks out on Farm Bill

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania Grange Master Charles Wismer this week told U.S. Senator Arlen Specter that the 1985 Farm Bill must be directed toward increasing the farmer's return for his investments in labor and capital to bring his net income up to par with other segments of the economy.

Wismer spoke at a hearing conducted by the senator Jan. 16 in Harrisburg on the 1985 Farm Bill and other national farm issues of concern to Pennsylvania's farm organizations.

Wismer pointed out that "since 1983, 120 bankruptcies and 160 voluntary liquidations have thinned the already dwindling ranks of the Pennsylvania farm community."

"We must reserve this downward trend and bring security to the family farmer," he said.

In the 1985 Farm Bill, the Grange supports limiting all federal farm payments to farms with gross incomes of between \$20,000 and \$200,000, "because under \$20,000, the farm is only a part-time or

hobby operation, and over \$200,000, the operation is stable and does not need governmental assistance," Wismer said. Foreign markets must be found for our agricultural products, he added, and farmers should be given incentive to produce food and fiber that have a market.

The dairy industry in Pennsylvania is in serious financial difficulty, the Grange leader said, attributing this to the fact that utility rates, the consumer price index, feed costs and fuel all have

increased significantly while the price of fluid milk paid to the farmer has actually decreased over the past three years. "The annual price of milk since 1981 has decreased \$1 per, hundredweight," Wismer said. "As a result, in Order 4 (Philadelphia area) alone, the number of dairy farmers has decreased from 7,327 in 1981 to 6,703 in October, 1984."

Solutions proposed by the Grange include updating the dairy price support formula to tie the support price to current costs,

productivity and other factors that reflect milk production in the nation. This formula should fluctuate in response to supply and demand as determined by the rate of surplus dairy products purchased by the Commodity Credit Corporation, according to the Grange.

Any assessment program should be conducted on a regional basis, Wismer said, referring to the current 50 cents per hundredweight assessment program on all dairy farmers in the nation. Those regions of the country which contribute most to overproduction should be penalized rather than lowering the support price for all dairy farmers, he said.

The Grange master also expressed his concern about producers being paid on time for their commodities. The Grange seeks legislation requiring prompt payment for dairy and poultry products as well as a secured creditor status for all producers in bankruptcy proceedings so that farmers have first claim on accounts receivable and inventories of bankrupt dealers of their products. Specter introduced a bill during the last session requiring payment to poultry producers for birds grown for slaughter within seven days of delivery to the processor. The Grange urged that this legislation be introduced again in the new session of Congress.

"Farmers must pay their bills in a timely manner, but to do this, they must receive their payment on time," Wismer said.

Wismer concluded his statement by calling for elected leaders' support for American agriculture to ensure financial stability and prosperous family farming.

## Farm Show dairy goat champions named

HARRISBURG — Leader's Dairy Goats of Wellsville, dominated the Alpine Dairy Goat judging in the Large Arena last week at the 69th Pennsylvania Farm Show.

They exhibited the grand champion, the reserve grand champion, the senior champion, the reserve senior champion, and the reserve junior champion.

Cheryl Eschbach of Kempton,

was the only other exhibitor to show a champion in the Alpine judging, taking the junior champion banner.

The Eschbach Family of Kempton, was the prevailing winner in the Nubian Dairy Goat competition. Cheryl Eschbach exhibited the junior champion, reserve senior champion and reserve grand champion Nubian goat. Lorraine Eschbach exhibited

the senior champion and grand champion.

Marantha Valley of Slatington, exhibited the reserve junior champion.

Spruceup Herd of Herndon, exhibited the junior champion, senior champion and grand champion in the Toggenburg Dairy Goat judging competition.

Ann J. Miller of Furlong, exhibited the reserve junior champion, reserve senior champion, and reserve grand champion Toggenburg goat.

Country Way of Alexandria, exhibited the grand champion, senior champion and reserve junior champion Saaen Dairy Goat. 40 Crossing of Alexandria, exhibited the reserve grand champion, reserve senior champion, and junior champion.

The winners were quite varied in the La Mancha Dairy Goat Judging. Barbara Watson of West Chester, exhibited the grand champion and senior champion La

Mancha goat. Charles Shepherd of Upper Strasburg, exhibited the reserve senior champion and reserve grand champion. Laurel Ridge Dairy Goats of Newmstown, exhibited the junior champion in the La Mancha Goat judging, while Lorraine Eschbach of Kempton, exhibited the reserve junior champion.

Haines Willow Run Farm of Honey Grove, exhibited the grand champion goat in the Recorded Grades division. Country Way of Alexandria, exhibited the reserve grand champion and reserve senior champion.

The junior champion in the Recorded Grades was exhibited by 40 Crossing of Alexandria, while Dee Ann Smith of Peach Bottom, exhibited the reserve junior champion.

Susan E. Miller of R1, Furlong, was named the owner of the Best Doe of the Dairy Goat Show. Her Challenge Champion was a La Mancha.

## Public meeting Feb. 20 on 'wild horse' bldg. contract

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A public meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 20 in Harrisburg to discuss a new three year contract for a Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Center in the Eastern Pennsylvania-Northern Maryland area.

The U.S. Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will soon accept proposals from persons interested in contracting to build and operate the facility, which the bureau hopes to open in May. The public meeting will acquaint potential contractors with BLM's Adopt-a-Horse or Burro Program, the requirements of the new contract, and bidding and proposal procedures.

The meeting will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Room B of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Building, Cameron and Maclay Streets, Harrisburg, Pa. Additional details are available from Betty Gillas of BLM, phone (703)

274-0232.

The Adopt-a-Horse or Burro Program is a 10-year-old effort on the part of BLM to find homes for excess wild horses and burros removed from overgrazed public rangelands in several western states. The animals are shipped by truck to adoption centers, and maintained under healthful conditions until picked up by qualified adopters.

In addition to building and maintaining the year-round adoption center, the recipient of the new contract will be expected periodically to carry out "satellite" adoptions, which are temporary adoption centers set up in various locations throughout the Northeast. The new contract calls for as many as four satellites each year. The 36-month contract includes an option for renewal through the end of September 1989.

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