

Pa. state fairs get improvement funds

HARRISBURG — Sixty Pennsylvania agricultural fairs will receive matching fund payments totaling \$120,183 for capital improvements this year, according to Acting State Agriculture Secretary George F. Grode.

Grode said this is the first time in six years that funding has been available for capital improvements at the state's 105 fairs. "Each year, \$2.5 million is appropriated to our fairs to reimburse their costs of events,

exhibitions and premiums," Grode said. "Matching funds for capital improvements become available when a balance remains after other Fairy Fund obligations have been met."

Grode said that a committee established to consider the matching funds payments had given approval for priority payments to 20 fairs which have had matching funds requests on file the longest. These payments range from \$723 to \$3,500. Another 40 fairs will each

receive equal payments of \$1,665.

"This system was determined to be the most equitable," he said, noting that the 60 fairs had applications on file for \$781,395 in matching funds.

"Our local, county and regional fairs are unique to Pennsylvania, providing a great opportunity to promote a better understanding of agriculture, while giving the farm community the chance to compete and improve the quality of Pennsylvania crops and livestock,"

Grode said.

The Acting Secretary said applications for the balance of these

matching funds requests would remain on file, and receive further consideration in the future when funds are available.



(Continued from Page A10)

continues through June 15. Call 814-865-8301.

Cumberland County dairy princess pageant, Embers, Carlisle.

Perry County dairy princess pageant, Newport Fairgrounds, Newport.

Saturday, June 15

York County Farmers Association, free farm tour, Hellam area, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Junior Livestock Day, Ag Arena, Penn State University.

Adams County dairy princess pageant, Biglerville High School.

Franklin County dairy princess

pageant, Kauffman Community Center, Chambersburg.

Huntingdon County dairy princess pageant, Shaver's Creek Community Building, Petersburg.

Lancaster County dairy princess pageant, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.

Sullivan County dairy princess pageant; Main Street, Dushore.

Sun Area dairy princess pageant, Boscoe's, Susquehanna Valley Mall; Selinsgrove.

Washington/Greene County dairy princess pageant, Washington County Fairgrounds, Washington.

Strong dollar

competitive position vis-a-vis rival suppliers.

Instead, analysts point to the Mexican and Korean examples to show how the price of impact of the strong dollar can be greatly

exaggerated if inflation rates are ignored. Both exchange rates and inflation rates must be considered, they say. The dollar's rise may have hurt more in some countries with

relatively strong currencies but low inflation rates, such as West Germany, than in many less developed countries with weak currencies but high inflation.

WASHINGTON — There's no doubt the strong U.S. dollar has hurt American exports, but the dollar may sometimes get too much of the blame, says a recent issue of the Agriculture Department's FARMLINE magazine. According to economist Mary Ponomarenko of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, a rising dollar does not necessarily price our products out of the market.

Ponomarenko points out that high inflation rates in many importing nations have partly offset, or even completely overshadowed, the effects of the dollar's climb against these currencies.

Take the case of U.S. corn to Mexico. The average U.S. Gulf port price for American corn rose 15% between 1980 and 1984. But the appreciation of the dollar against the Mexican peso raised the price of corn in pesos by more than 700%—enough, probably, to discourage any purchases had it not been for Mexico's runaway inflation. Inflation raises the prices of all goods and services in the economy, so a 700% increase in the price of imported corn is high only if other prices in Mexico rose by a much smaller amount. After adjusting the U.S. corn price for changes in both the exchange rate and inflation, the "real" cost to Mexico for U.S. corn rose by 30% from 1980 to 1984.

Or consider the Korean example. Again, the U.S. dollar price for corn rose 15%, but the appreciation of the dollar jacked up the price in South Korean currency by slightly more than 50%. When inflation rates are also taken into account, however, the "real" price of U.S. corn to Korea rose by only 10%. South Korea's inflation rate had, in fact, more than compensated for the dollar's climb.

Trade analysts do not claim that we shouldn't worry about a strong dollar. Even in markets with high inflation rates, costs of U.S. products would be much more attractive without the sharp appreciation of the dollar. That, in turn, might encourage more imports, and it would almost certainly improve America's

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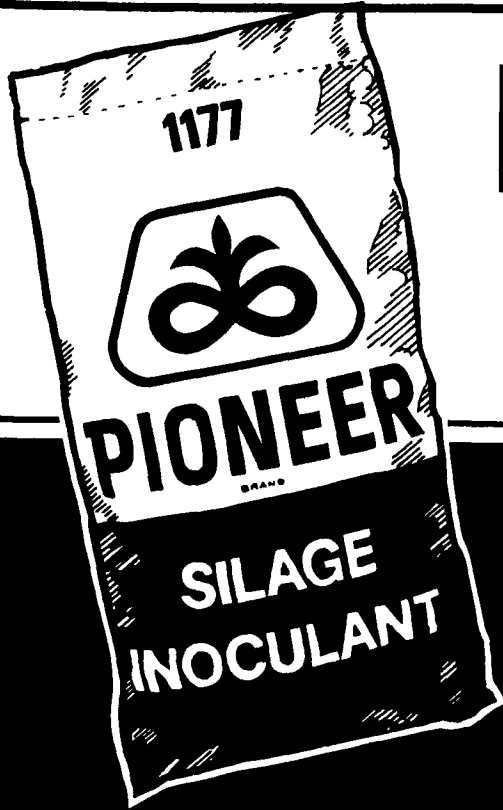
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