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House committee eyes Farm Bill completion

BY JAMES H. EVERHART
WASHINGTON — The House Agriculture Committee will begin final consideration of the 1985 Farm Bill next week, with controversial dairy legislation heading the agenda.

Bernard Brenner, spokesman for the committee, said the group will begin full committee markup on Tuesday, with morning, noon and evening sessions scheduled, if necessary, to complete drafting of the bill.

Brenner said committee chairman Kika de la Garza hopes to complete the draft of the legislation by Thursday, though some of the issues could be addressed the following week.

The committee will use as its basic text the various "titles" or sections of the bill that have been

approved by the subcommittees. He said the committee will also have de la Garza's own original version for reference.

He said the committee was planning to take the titles in order of their appearance in the overall bill, though the legislators could quickly change their minds and alter the order of appearance.

Specifically, he said, they may decide to take the "easier" titles first, or those that are less controversial or less likely to result in disagreement.

Other officials noted that the agenda currently lists the controversial dairy legislation first on the list of titles to be addressed on Tuesday.

The House Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry last week approved a dairy title quite

similar to the National Milk Producers Federation package that had been blasted by Agriculture Secretary John Block.

The NMPF proposal includes a provision creating a dairy diversion program similar to the one which expired April 1. The legislation would authorize the USDA Secretary to institute a diversion program if government purchases exceed five billion pounds equivalent, and would require a diversion set-up if purchases reached seven billion pounds.

The plan, according to one USDA official, would virtually guarantee a "permanent dairy diversion program."

For instance, purchases in 1984, when the diversion program was in

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July is Ice Cream Month



The month of July has been designated Ice Cream Month and offers a special opportunity to enjoy this all-American dessert. This week Lancaster Farming talks to Lancaster County ice cream maker Everett Kreider, who cranks out gallons and gallons of the creamy dessert in his 15-quart freezer. Look for the story on page B16. The Kid's Korner on page B10 features some suggestions for kids who would like to give ice cream a new twist.

Block extends deadline to Oct 1

Wheat referendum postponed

BY JACK HUBLEY
WASHINGTON — A wheat producer referendum originally scheduled for July 19 to 26, has been postponed, according to John Ochs, press secretary for USDA Secretary of Agriculture John Block.

After Congress' recent passage of a bill giving the Secretary discretionary authority to delay the nationwide vote, Block announced that he would delay the referendum until at least Oct. 1.

"Our attitude, at this point, is that we have agreed to postpone the referendum if Congress makes some progress on the farm bill over the next month or so," Ochs said.

Ochs pointed out that, with the expiration of current farm legislation on September 30, the only authority remaining is the so-called permanent legislation. This includes the Agricultural Ad-

justment Act of 1938 that provides for allotment requirements, and the Act of 1949 that provides for price supports.

In the event that no new overriding legislation is enacted in time, farmers would be called upon to vote on a wheat marketing policy, according to Randy Weber, agricultural marketing specialist with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

And with the 1986 national wheat marketing quota set at 1.955 billion bushels and 54 million acres, farmers would be asked to approve or reject these ceilings.

If more than two-thirds of the voters approved the marketing quota program, only those farmers with allotments could grow wheat, and mandatory acreage controls with penalties for overplanting would be invoked, Weber pointed out. Other provisions would include a two-tiered price support

system, a domestic and export certificate program financed by processors and exporters and a mandatory unpaid land diversion program.

If one-third or more of the producers opposed the program, said Weber, all farmers would be permitted to grow wheat, and no acreage controls would be im-

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Two markets

not available

LANCASTER — Because of the holiday, the New Holland dairy and livestock markets were not available this week from USDA.

Normal coverage of these markets will resume in next week's edition.

INSIDE THIS EDITION of Lancaster Farming



Angus fanciers from 12 states entered 203 heifers, bulls and steers in this year's Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show at the York Fairgrounds. Read all about it on page A20.



Turn to page A18 to read about Caleb Williams, Tioga County dairy farmer and cheese maker.