

## ASA opposes compromise on cargo preference regs

ST. LOUIS, MO. — Calling a recent compromise between several agricultural groups and maritime interests neither desirable nor workable, the president of the American Soybean Association (ASA) has urged Congress and the Reagan Administration to support legislation exempting commercial agricultural export programs from cargo preference regulations.

The compromise would exempt commercial agricultural export programs such as Export PIK, GSM 102 and Blended Credit from cargo preference. However, it would increase from 50% to 75% the U.S. flag shipping requirements for the P.L. 480 "Food for Peace" program. The extra funds for this increase would supposedly be allocated by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

"We are very concerned with a 'snapback' provision in this compromise which would disallow these export program exemptions of the Transportation Department was unable to provide the necessary funds," said ASA President Roger Asendorf, a Minnesota soybean farmer. "This would force agricultural groups to lobby each year for extra maritime industry subsidies through the Transportation Department to protect our commercial export programs."

U.S. Undersecretary of Agriculture Daniel Amstutz has indicated the increase in P.L. 480 allocations to U.S. flag vessels, as proposed in the compromise, could cost as much as \$150 million. Asendorf noted it would be ludicrous to imagine the Transportation Department requesting additional funding when the mood of Congress is to reduce spending.

Asendorf said soybean farmers support Senate bill "S. 721."

"This particular bill, which was unanimously approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee, exempts commercial agricultural export programs from cargo preference without increasing the P.L. 480 allocation," said Asendorf. "This would be a return to 'status quo'...the situation which existed prior to a February 1985 court decision requiring the application of cargo preference to USDA's blended credit program."

Even though they support S. 721, Asendorf said soybean farmers would actually like all agricultural

export programs exempt from cargo preference, including P.L. 480 shipments.

"We are not proposing the

elimination of subsidies for our maritime industry," emphasized Asendorf. "However, we do believe they should be allocated

directly to the industry through the U.S. Department of Transportation, rather than hidden in the USDA budget. This would allow

our maritime industry to compete in the world shipping market for all cargoes, including those of U.S. government origin."

## Central Jersey Holstein honors to Penn-Breeze

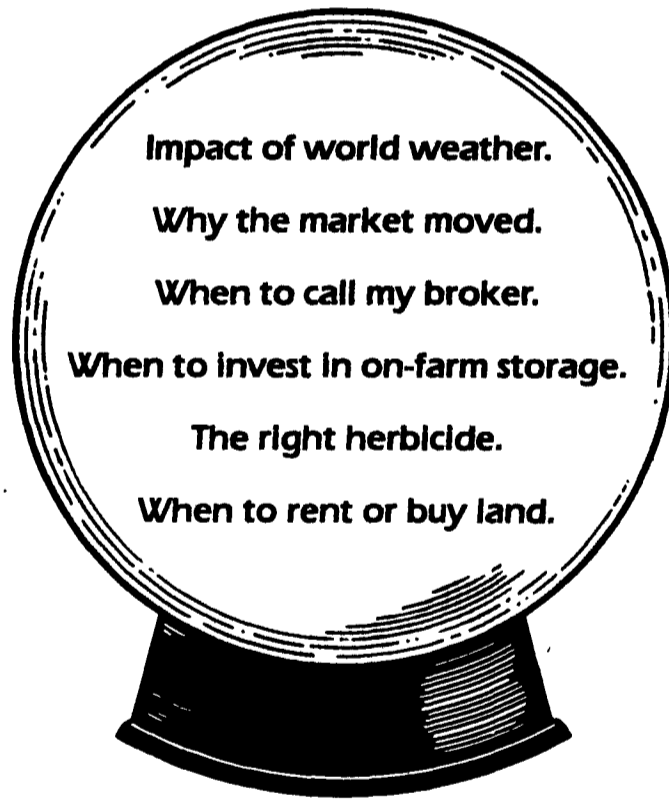


Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor trophies went to Penn-Breeze Farm, Ringoes, NJ, at the recent Central Jersey Holstein Show. Pictured are, 1. to r., Gretchen Kuehn, Flemington, N.J., Hunterdon County Dairy Princess; Paul King, Delta, PA, judge; and the Rogers' family, Charles, Ken, Janet, and Sandy.



Champions pose for picture following the Central Jersey Holstein Show. Left to right: Paul King, Delta, PA, judge; Penn-Breeze Oriol Persua Sandy and owner, Sandy Rogers, Ringoes, NJ; Backacres Joyous Dixie and owner, Lucinda Teets Pill, High Bridge, NJ; and Gretchen Kuehn, Flemington, NJ, Hunterdon Dairy Princess.

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## Virginia tobacco market official

WASHINGTON — The tobacco market at Farmville, Va., will be officially designated as a tobacco auction market for type 37 Virginia sun-cured tobacco beginning with the 1985 marketing season, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.

Lionel S. Edwards, an official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the results of a referendum of tobacco growers using the market showed that 95 percent of the participating growers voted in favor of the designation.

Edwards said an application to designate Farmville as a market for sun-cured tobacco was submitted by a local grower cooperative.

The Tobacco Inspection Act of 1935 requires tobacco growers that used a market the previous year approve by a two-thirds majority the designation of a tobacco auction market before the designation becomes official.



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