

PFA applauds revisions to 1985 Farm Bill

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA) has praised passage of legislation in the U.S. Congress that clarifies and improves the 1985 farm program, approved by Congress in late December.

The legislation (The 1986 Food Security Improvements Act) was approved late last week by

Congress following an extensive lobbying effort by more than 200 Pennsylvania farmers in the nation's capital this week.

"We have been seeking positive changes in the 1985 farm program for several months, and this legislation carries out the directives of our policy goals," Keith W. Eckel, PFA president, said today.

"We believe this legislation will make a big, overall improvement both in the administering of the program and applying the farm program provisions at the farmer level."

Eckel said that the farm group did oppose further assessments on dairy farmers, but the bill gave the U.S. agriculture secretary power

to increase the dairy assessment to farmers another 12 cents per hundredweight.

The bill did not change the manner in which producers calculate milk marketing history for the whole herd buyout provided by the 1985 farm program, sought by some dairy interests, according to the farm leader.

Participants could plant as much as half of their permitted acreage in non-program commodities and receive program benefits under the set aside provision in the 1985 farm program. These crops could actually compete with other farmers, lowering market prices for non-participating crops.

The action by Congress will permit only haying and grazing, unless the agriculture secretary sees a serious adverse economic impact, according to Eckel.

Under the 1985 farm bill, the base acreage formula for determining price supports was based on a five-year history average. This five-year average could have

reduced crop bases, forcing some producers to plow under some of the crop in order to comply with program guidelines.

"Action by the Congress made a major change in determining price supports," the farm leader said. "If the farmer's actual compensation under current farm programs is reduced by more than three percent this year, he will be compensated for the reduction with Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) stocks. That's a major improvement for farmers."

Eckel explained that if the farmer's compensation is reduced by five percent in 1987 or 10 percent in 1988, he would again be compensated with CCC stocks.

Other provisions of the Food Security Improvements Act set the salary for the special assistant for the agricultural trade and food assistance program; and reduce the amount of CCC commodities required to be used in the export enhancement program from \$2 billion to \$1 billion.

Interstate District 8 slates meeting

SOUTHAMPTON — The Morgantown and Kimberton Locals of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative District 8 will hold their annual dinner meeting March 18 at 7 p.m. at the

Ridge Fire Hall, Bucktown, Director Andrew D. Stoltzfus announced.

Guest speaker will be Dr. Paul E. Hand, Inter-State general manager. Hand will review the cooperative's fiscal year and will

discuss the dairy provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill.

A business meeting will be conducted by Stanley R. Guest, District 8 president, to elect officers, delegates and alternate delegates for the coming year. Guest will also present a 25-year membership plaque to the Harold F. Pyle family, Malvern.

Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative District 8 covers central Berks County, northern Chester County and parts of Lancaster and Montgomery counties.

Meeting set for Inter-State District 25

SOUTHAMPTON — The Washington County and Shenandoah Locals of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative District 25 will hold their annual dinner meeting March 18 at 7 p.m. at the Boonsboro Fire Hall, Boonsboro, Md., Director L. Elmer Vickers announced.

Guest speaker will be James R. Barnett, Inter-State member relations manager. Barnett will

review the cooperative's goals for the coming year and will discuss the dairy provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill.

A business meeting will be conducted by Tom Firey, District 25 president.

Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative District 25 covers Washington and Frederick counties, Md., and Berkeley, Clarke, Frederick, Jefferson and Morgan counties, W. Va.

Inter-State District 13

SOUTHAMPTON — Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative District 13 will hold its annual dinner meeting March 20 at 7 p.m. at the Juniata Valley School, Alexandria, Director Charles E. Schilling announced.

Guest speaker will be Robert M. Dever, Inter-State assistant general manager. Dever will review the cooperative's goals for the coming year and will discuss the dairy provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill.

Geary Shade, District 13 president, will conduct the meeting. He will present 50-year membership plaques to W.H. and Ruby Shultz Jr., James Creek; Barron L. Stine, Warriors Mark; and Raymond and Ethel Varner, Hesston.

Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative District 13 covers Centre County and parts of Blair, Clearfield and Huntingdon counties.


Pesticide training

NEWARK, DE — A training session for individuals not now certified as commercial applicators 2 and 3 (forest and ornamental/turf categories, respectively) has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 18. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in room 032 Townsend Hall (Routh 896 across from the Chrysler assembly plant) on the University of Delaware campus in Newark. Following the training session,


participants may take the certification exam(s) for one or both applicator categories.


On April 8 ornamental and turf applicators will have another opportunity to become certified. A second training session will be held from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the same location. Forest topics will not be covered.

For more information on either session, call Jeff Lacour at 451-2526.



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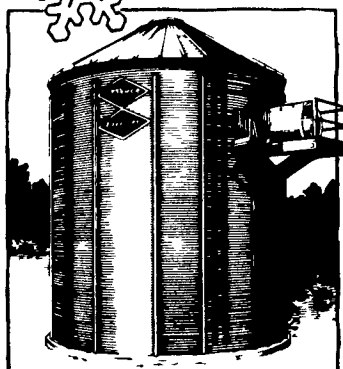
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