

## Nation's Shepherds To Vote On Promotion

BY JACK HUBLEY

The nation's sheep industry will be deciding whether or not to continue its national lamb and wool promotion programs during a referendum that gets underway on Monday and continues until Aug. 28.

Conducted by USDA, the referendum examines grassroots support for national promotion and sets the checkoff level for those programs. Approval of the

referendum is contingent upon a "yes" vote from two-thirds of voters, or from the number of voters required to represent two-thirds of the sheep.

Funding for national promotion programs originates from a duty levied on imported wool. Producers receive incentive payments from the import duty based on their yearly marketings, and a portion of the incentive

money is deducted to finance promotion and new product development programs administered by the Denver, Colorado-based American Sheep Producers Council.

At present, the deduction rate is 4 cents per pound of shorn wool and 20 cents per hundredweight of unshorn lamb. This amounts to a per-head deduction of 13 cents on wool and 30 cents on meat, according to Penn State Extension

sheep specialist Clair Engle.

In addition to giving the nod to future promotional programs, a yes vote on this year's referendum would authorize a 50-percent increase in both deduction rates, to 6 cents on wool and 30 cents on lamb. ASPC's current annual promotion budget amounts to about \$5 million, with 60 percent earmarked for lamb and 40 percent for wool, according to ASPC spokesman, John Morrison. Although a no vote would not officially have any effect on incentive payments to producers, "It's questionable if growers would still receive incentive payments if they're not willing to invest some of their incentive money for promoting their own products," said Morrison.

Calling the sheep industry "the bright spot in agriculture," Morrison noted that Pennsylvania

lamb prices are some of the highest in the nation. "Projections indicate as much as a six percent increase in live lamb (prices) for next year," he said.

Morrison cautioned, though, that aggressive export programs conducted by New Zealand and Australia could threaten the industry's momentum here. While imported lamb accounts for only 7 to 8 percent of U.S. consumption, New Zealand outspends the United States by a 20-to-1 margin in promotion and marketing efforts on a pound-for-pound basis, he pointed out.

Although the referendum has been conducted at four-year intervals since 1955, this year's vote would extend the program for five years, Morrison said.

All producers receiving incentive wool checks in 1985 will receive a ballot by mail from their ASCS office.

## PP&L To Auction Farmland

LANCASTER — Farmers seeking quality Lancaster County farmland take note. Nine parcels of prime farmland in Manor Township covering nearly 640 acres will be sold at auction in mid-October.

Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, which owns the land, had previously planned to sell the property by sealed bids, but recently changed its approach to an auction to generate more interest.

"We've had a lot of inquiries," PP&L Columbia area manager Don Smith said.

The nine farms will be sold individually and five homes on the property also will be sold separately, Smith said.

The electric company is guaranteeing the land will remain in farming by inserting provisions in the deeds restricting the land to agricultural use forever. Located along the Susquehanna River, the parcel is the state's second largest contiguous tract of permanently preserved farmland.

Although the exact date of the sale has not yet been set, it will be held at the property site, Smith said. All of the properties will be sold the same day.

Lancaster County ag preserve officials said 80 percent of the land consists of Class 1, 2 and 3 soils and is excellent for agricultural use.

Much of the land is currently being farmed by Funk Bros., a vegetable farming operation.

PP&L acquired the land in the 1960s with the intention of constructing a generating plant there

some day, Smith said. When industry outlook changed, PP&L decided against building another plant and decided to sell the property.

## HOLSTEIN SALE



At the farm located between Libertytown and New Windsor near the County line, in Frederick Co., Md. From Libertytown take Route 31 east 4½ miles to Oak Orchard Rd., turn right and farm is 1½ miles on right. From New Windsor take Route 31 west to Oak Orchard Rd. and turn left.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27**  
11:00 A.M.

**103 HEAD OF GRADE HOLSTEINS**  
75 Cows - 13 Bred Heifers  
- 15 Open Heifers -

The cows include 23 recently fresh and 10 more due shortly after sale. Others will be due this fall for late base.

— 35 in First or Second Lactation —

These Sell:			
No. 3	370	18,220	4.7 842
No. 42	364	23,670	3.5 837
No. 27	307	17,110	4.7 811
No. 37	346	19,000	4.0 761
No. 55	315	18,770	4.1 771
No. 1	366	19,810	3.5 706
No. 134	365	19,530	3.5 679

Bred Heifers due from sale throughout base period.

**Attention:** This is largely a late summer and early fall freshening herd. A good opportunity to buy base milk.

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