

Gor-Wood-D Acres

(Continued from Page A32)

At breeding age the heifers go to a free stall barn where they are bred with a well picked bull. They use the bull to save time, Ron says.

The Woods have learned to work with their clay, thin soil on the home farm. "We rely on grass an awful lot," Ron says.

They plant alfalfa and grasses, and in particular canary grass, according to Ron. "We don't plow up as much as other people would. We have had stands up to 10 year," he adds.

Ron is quite enthusiastic about the Acorn Ram manure system they put in a few years ago and

notes some changes it has made in their farming practices. He says he can't believe the difference in their stands when they draw off the effluent and spread it around. Then the manure is put on their alfalfa until it covers the crowns of the alfalfa. It not only fertilizes the alfalfa, he says, but protects it on the windy hilltop from soil erosion. They put up a lot of haylage and a little corn silage, he adds.

Looking to the future of the milk industry, Gordon predicts the United States will go to a quota system similar to Canada's. He specifies that it will have to be administered regionally and by

farmers and imports will have to be controlled, but he believes it is in the future.

As an alternative to the buyout program now in effect he would like to suggest a program administered whereby each farmer would receive \$100 per heifer calf over the selling price for each one sold. That way, he explained, the poorer stock would be "taken off the bottom" instead of eliminating some of the best herds which is what Ron says has happened in Tioga County. However one of the best herds appear destined to stick around and leave their mark on Pennsylvania Holsteins.



Gor Wood D Acres lies near Mansfield in Tioga County and encompasses nearly 2,500 acres.

Christmas tree growers

To Vote On Assessment

HARRISBURG — State Agriculture Secretary Richard E. Grubb yesterday submitted a proposed marketing program for Pennsylvania Christmas trees to a vote by tree growers.

Up to 1,600 affected growers will vote on whether to pay assessments that would raise an estimated \$150,000 for marketing, promotion and research activities. The proposed fee is 10 cents per tree harvested and sold.

The Department of Agriculture mailed ballots to growers on Oct. 10. Voting will be by mail, and ballots must be returned to the Department by 4 p.m., Oct. 24. Growers with three or more acres of trees for sale are eligible to vote.

The Secretary decided to hold a referendum after reviewing the testimony of growers at a public hearing held in July in response to a request for such a program from the 585-member Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association.

"There's no question that providing additional funding for

research, promotion and marketing will advance the interests of our producers in the marketplace," Grubb said.

The referendum is held under provisions of the Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act, which has been utilized by potato and vegetable growers, dairymen and peach and nectarine producers to set up similar marketing and research programs.

To be enacted the program must receive a majority vote, and those voting for it must own a majority of the acreage represented by the total ballots cast.

If the program wins approval, a nine-member advisory committee of growers would be appointed by the Secretary to assist in administering it.

Growers with three or more acres who have not received ballots within a few days of the Oct. 10 mailing or who need more information should contact the Department's Bureau of Marketing Development at 717-783-9948.

RCMA Coordinator Named

BY MARTHA SHELDON
SYRACUSE N.Y. — Harold Ely of Susquehanna Township has been named Regional Cooperative Marketing Agency representative in Pennsylvania.

Ely was appointed by the RCMA steering committee and has been charged with completing the sign-up of independent milk producers in Federal Marketing Orders Number 2 and 4 and the state's unregulated area in the northeast. RCMA director Arthur

Little said his agency hopes to have the independents signed up as soon as possible, preferably by Nov. 1.

Ely is a dairy farmer who has been active in farming circles in the state. His job will include coordinating publicity for the sign-up campaign.

Little says 85 percent of the Northeast is now signed up with RCMA and the goal is 10 percent more, to enable the organization to institute over-order pricing.

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