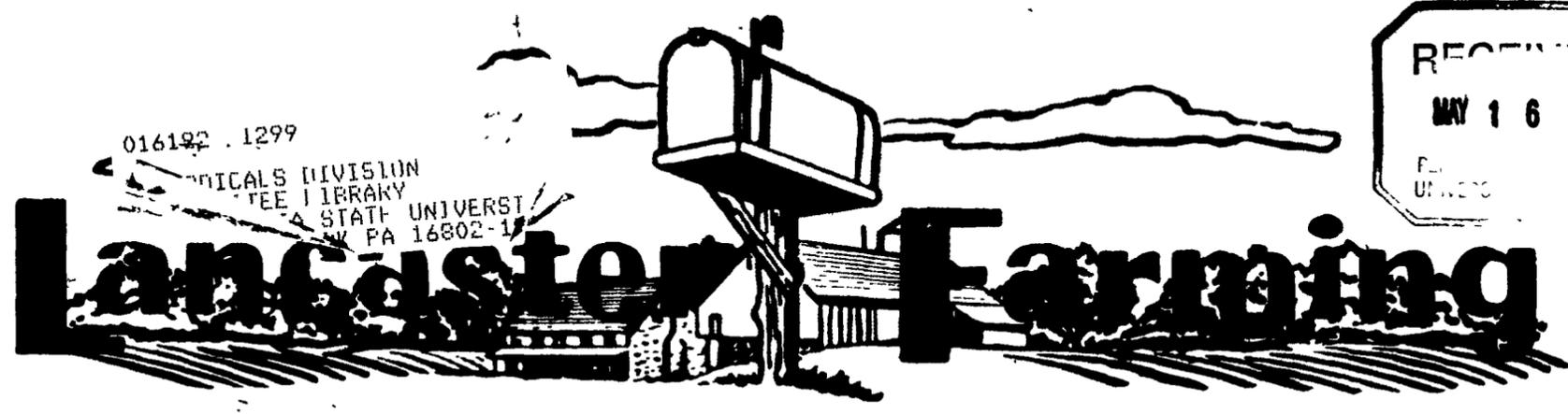


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# Briefing Shows Decoupling Not Dead

**BY KATHY E. GILL**  
Special to Lancaster Farming  
WASHINGTON, DC — As Washington policymaker thoughts turn to the 1990 farm bill, one issue stands out: decoupling is not dead. The concept of separating producer income support from farm production decisions was introduced by Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R-MN) during the 1985 farm bill debate. And the concept has gained Reagan Administration support in the current negotiations on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

A recent public briefing here, sponsored by the National Center for Food and Ag Policy and the Iowa State University Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, demonstrated that decoupling is riding the first wave of debate on the 1990 farm bill. Ed Rossmiller, director of the National Center, suggested that agricultural issues will be highly visible over the next two years. Congress must deal with multilateral trade negotiations on agriculture in the GATT, an external  
(Turn to Page A27)



On the Nolt Farm located on Route 772 from Litz to Manheim (Lancaster), they used the good weather wisely in the earlier part of the week before the rains came. Across the state, 35 percent of the Pennsylvania crop and weather reporters said that topsoil moisture was short, 60 percent said adequate, and five percent said they had a surplus of moisture as of the beginning of May. The state's spring plowing was 75 percent completed, ahead of last year at the time when 66 percent was complete. Corn throughout the state was 14 percent planted, about the same as last year. Potato plantings were about 58 percent complete. And 91 percent of the barley was in pre-boot stage of development while nine percent was in the boot stage.

# Grange Week Celebration Honors State Legislators

**BY PAT PURCELL**  
HARRISBURG (Dauphin) — Pennsylvania's Secretary of Agriculture Boyd Wolff congratulated grange members for having more support of grange in their state than any other state in the nation in presenting to Grange Master Charles Wismer, Jr. the Governor's signed proclamation to kick-off grange week at Monday's celebration held at the Penn Harris Convention Center in Camp Hill.

Although Grange Week actually began last week, the state primary election forced the kick-off celebration to be held a week late. Wolff took the opportunity to encourage members to support tax reform movement to decrease real estate taxes for farmers throughout the state. Many of the state's legislators were guests at Monday evening's dinner in the grand ballroom. Wismer expressed the grange's appreciation to those members of state government for supporting the organizations legislative goals. At the dinner, Wismer announced that the Coyote Indemnification Law had passed the house just that day. "This bill which may be signed  
(Turn to Page A35)

# Johnes: Dairy Farmers Beware

**BY PAT PURCELL**  
Editor's Note: This is the fourth and final article in the series on the Johnes disease. LITITZ (Lancaster) — Economic disaster follows in the footsteps of Johnes disease. The loss to Pennsylvania dairy farmers is more than \$5.5 million annually according to the study conducted by teams of researchers from the University of Pennsylvania and Penn State University. That is a conservative figure,

according to Dr. Robert Whitlock. Whitlock of New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania has headed the Johnes research at New Bolton and is well-known throughout the nation for his Johnes research. The figure would be astronomical if loss of genetic potential, costs of increase susceptibility to other diseases and veterinary costs were included. Johnes research at the New Bolton Center was initiated through a request from the Pennsylvania

State Grange four years ago. Farmers feel helpless against this silent killer of dairy animals and other ruminants. They look to the Bureau of Animal Industry to impose mandatory testing and to stop the either innocent or not-so-innocent selling of Johnes-infected dairy animals to other dairymen. And that, BAI officials say, is not so easily done. "The dairy farmers have every right to look to the Bureau of Am-  
(Turn to Page A28)



At the legislative dinner, Pennsylvania State Grange Master Charles Wismer, Jr. presents citations to (from left) Bill Irwin, Mitchell Blouse and Ron Shaffer for their efforts in starting new granges throughout the state.

# Beef Ballots To Talk On Tuesday

**BY EVERETT NEWSWANGER**  
Managing Editor  
LITITZ (Lancaster)— Farmers often segmentalize themselves. "Proud to be a farmer" breaks down into a more comfortable expression that includes the type of farmer talking. Beef farmer. Dairy

farmer. Or veal farmer. But there's no room for segmentalization in the beef referendum. Everyone's in this one together; "for better or for worse" you might say. Of course many different viewpoints have been expressed to this editor over the last several months. Articles and editorials

passed or failed according to this viewpoint. But after all the supportive reports and endorsements by practically every farmer organization and many government officials, more grassroots farmers have talked negatively about the checkoff this week than ever before. (Grassroots defined as far-

mers with almost no farm organization affiliation, or leadership position in farm causes.) One Lancaster County farmer called and said he was not a public person, and was also advised that to speak out would cause him to make enemies. So he asked not to be identified. But he said he and

his brothers, who have sizable beef operations, don't have good feelings about government control in the referendum. He rebutted an official who had spoken last week in Lancaster Farming and said the program was farmer-controlled. "If it is farmer-  
(Turn to Page A26)

## FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

**Editor:**  
Why I am going to vote "no" on the beef referendum:  
1. The checkoff has been in operation two years without referendum and forced upon us unconstitutionally.  
2. It has not proven any real results so far. Experts and promoters admit this.  
See Houser page A25

**Editor:**  
Why don't you get a write-up in your paper about how good the \$100 check-off is. We buy a few calves on this farm every year to grow out for beef. Since the check-off, we get \$500 plus when we sell these for beef. Before the check-off they  
See Butterholf page A25

**Editor:**  
The people who set up the rules for the beef promotion say everybody pays \$1 per head regardless of size, if it be a 60 lb. calf or a 1600 lb. bulk. They don't care on the amount of money received per head. If I buy a dairy-beef cross calf at  
See Lilly page A25

**Editor:**  
I am writing to remind all beef producers about what could be the most important election they vote in this year. Not, the presidential election or last week's primary, but, the May 10 referendum on the future of the Beef Checkoff. Every dairy, beef or veal pro-  
See Stambaugh page A26

**Editor:**  
I am writing to clear up a misunderstanding which was evident in Mrs. Redman's recent letter about beef checkoff refunds. Mrs. Redman said that she had not yet received a refund requested in February. While we have received  
See Coleman page A25