



Provisions Of Drought Relief Bill Discussed

BY KARL BERGER
Special Correspondent

The drought relief bill signed into law by President Reagan Aug. 11 contains two provisions that will benefit all dairy farmers regardless of how much they're affected by failing crops or rising feed costs.

The bill rules out the possibility of another 50-cent a hundred-weight reduction in the government support price on Jan. 1, 1989. One of three potential cuts outlined in the 1985 farm bill, it would have taken effect if the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated the government's purchase of surplus dairy stocks in 1989 would have exceeded 5 billion pounds on a milk equivalent basis.

The drought relief measure also requires a 50-cent increase in the support price, to \$11.10 a hundred-weight for milk of average butterfat content, between April 1 and June 30, 1989. The increase should boost farm milk prices during next year's spring flush, when producers are expected to be squeezed most tightly by higher feed costs and lower milk prices.

"This small, temporary milk price support increase is needed to stabilize farm milk prices next spring and help dairy farmers weather the high feed costs caused by the drought," said James Darr, the chief executive of the National Milk Producers Federation.

The federation, which represents most of the nation's dairy cooperatives in Washington, lobbied for the bill.

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The 1988-89 State Poultry Queen and the new Adams County Poultry Queen Valerie Hoy receives her crown from the 1987-88 Adams County Poultry Queen Melissa Gebhart. Valerie won the title last Saturday evening at the Adams County Poultry Association's Annual Appreciation Banquet and Queen Pageant held this year at the Cross Keys Motor Inn.

New State Poultry Queen

BY GINGER SECRIST MYERS
Adams Co. Correspondent

CROSS KEYS (Adams)—Valerie Hoy is the 1988-89 Adams County Poultry Queen and the new Pennsylvania State Poultry Queen. Valerie captured the title in the county's Queen Pageant held this year in conjunction with the Adams County Poultry Association Annual Appreciation Banquet. This year's event was held at the Cross Keys Motor Inn. The

title of State Poultry Queen alternates annually between Lancaster County's and Adams County pageant winner.

The new State Poultry Queen is the daughter of Paulette Hoy Pal-

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Ag Luncheon Group Has Optimistic View

BY
EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

ROCK SPRINGS (Centre)—A farm communicator told the government day luncheon group here

Improved ADF Levels In PA Hay Show

BY PAT PURCELL
ROCK SPRINGS (Centre) — Although the drought knocked out several classes of entries in the Pennsylvania Hay Show featured this week at Ag Progress Days, it actually helped in the production of high protein and easily digestible hay.

In previous years, according to Sidney Bosworth of the Agronomy Department at Penn State University, entries numbered between 140 to 150. This year's tally was 115. However, Bosworth noted that chemical analysis in previous years showed the ADF (acid digestible hay).

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Ag Preservation Group Gains New Name, Bylaws

BY LISA RISSER
LANCASTER — Late last week members of the Friends of Agricultural Land Preservation approved a name change as well as changes to their bylaws. Now called Lancaster Farmland Trust, the group adopted the changes to better reflect the organization's growth.

"Friends of Agricultural Land Preservation was established in 1984 as a support organization for the Agricultural Preserve Board," said Alan Musselman, executive director of the group. "We will continue to be supportive of the Board, but we have assumed other projects independent of it. We will be more directly involved in agricultural preservation."

The principal function of Lancaster Farmland Trust is to save

Lancaster County farm land, according to Musselman. "We are working with farmers for conservation easements by donation and the acquisition of one, and possibly more, farms to resell to young farmers just starting out."

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Credit Directors On Farm Tour

BY
EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

LITITZ (Lancaster)—The bankers dressed in sport shirts and the farmers in white shirts and ties got together this week to exchange ideas on farm credit needs. The occasion for the on-farm meetings was the annual board of directors

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A large representative crowd at Ag Progress Days watches the hay mowing and conditioning demonstration on Wednesday morning. Eleven rigs that include all makes of tractors and equipment were represented. When the

machines finished their rounds, farmers were able to move in close to inspect the work and meet with agribusiness representatives.

Wednesday that diets, information transfer, promotion, the national food policy, pesticide pressures, and biotechnology are present factors to be considered in agriculture.

Gordon Conklin, director, American Agriculturalist Foundation, said animal agriculture is clearly on the defensive. But, since meat, eggs, and milk remain the source of high quality protein and other necessary food ingredients, Conklin said we desperately need to get this message across to the public.

While Conklin chided the dairy industry for its early promotion of milk as nature's most nearly perfect food when many people were lactose intolerant, he said the dairy industry now has developed products for older people and ethnic groups who cannot drink whole milk.

And he credited the Pork, The Other White Meat commercials with helping consumers perceive pork as fatter turkey and poultry meat. "And perception constitutes reality," Conklin said.

Most farmers remain production-oriented and therefore lose touch with non-farm consumers and our legislators. "We need to spend more time keeping everyone aware of the facts of agriculture."

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