

Lancaster Farmers' Association

(Continued from Page A1)

tor, explained the current farmland program that was passed under Act 149 in 1988. He said that Act 149 so far allowed 74,000 acres owned by 11,000 landowners to be placed in ag security areas.

Donald Ranck, a Paradise farmer and farmers association director, countered that the current plan favors a small number of farmers rather than allowing every farmer to benefit from the program.

He said the farmland referendum that voters passed two years ago, is underfunded and calculates that at \$1,000 per acre less than one percent of the current farmland could be preserved. Rather than watch the program fail, Ranck rallied farmers to adopt a resolution that Act 149 be changed to allow

counties to provide property tax credit, financed by the bond issue.

Landowners by accepting the tax credit would prevent non-agricultural development on enrolled land for a period of five years. Each year, the land owner took the tax credit would automatically extend the agreement and keep the land from development. If the landowner chooses to pay full property taxes by refusing the tax credit, it would allow exit from the program after five years.

Ranck stressed that his proposal would allow farm land to be preserved with a tax credit, and at the same time, landowners could have the option to be in or out of the land preservation program. Planning would then revolve around wishes of the land owner rather than town-

ship supervisors.

Daniel's said that the Ag Preserve Board doesn't have a ruling on Ranck's proposal, but they prefer a long term rather than short term preservation.

Ranck countered that his plan would have a long term effect while allowing farmers the option to control their land.

After discussion, members of the association voted in favor of Ranck's proposal.

Local delegates will take the recommendation to the state association assembly held November 13 through 15. If the state association agrees, it will endorse legislation to change Act 149.

The association voted to add the mile a minute weed to the list of noxious weeds in Pennsylvania. The prickly vine, also known as tearthumb, destroys new tree plantings and even displaces Japanese honeysuckle in a single season. The troublesome weed must be controlled by landowners to prevent legal action.

A proposal to ban the general use of BST, a growth hormone occurring naturally in dairy cattle, was rejected by the association.

The association will recommend at the annual state convention that nutrient management legislation be handled by the Department of Agriculture rather than the Department of Environ-

mental Resources.

The following directors were chosen: Jane Balmer, district 1; Bob Fox, district 4; Don Ranck, district 6; Delmar Weaver, district 7; Raymond Hess, district 9; and Glenn Aument, district 13.

Free association memberships were presented to winners of the contest sponsored by the association's newsletter committee. Dennis and Karen Lehman, Penryn, were named winners of the photo contest. Their farm will be pictured in back of the association's logo. Marlin and Phyllis Moyer, Manheim, won the slogan contest with their entry: "Lancaster County Farmers Growing With Pride."



At the Lancaster County Farmers Association banquet, Donald L. Ranck, a Paradise farmer and a director of the association, and Thomas Daniels, Lancaster County Ag Preserve board director, voiced the pros and cons of the ag preservation program. Members then voted to support Ranck's proposal that Act 149 be amended.

USDA Recommends Amendments To Milk Order

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has recommended several amendments to the New York-New Jersey federal milk marketing order.

Recommended changes include shortening by five days the period in which milk handlers must make final payments to dairy farmers, and correspondingly shortening some other payment and reporting dates.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the changes would bring the order into conformity with new New York State

law. The law becomes effective Jan. 1, 1990.

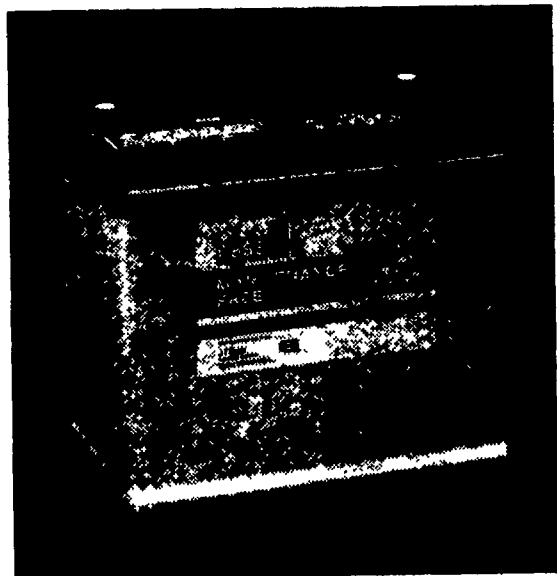
Haley said making payment dates agree with that law was one of many issues raised at an extended public hearing in June 27, July 21, and November 14-16, which was convened to consider proposed amendments to the New York-New Jersey, New England, and Middle Atlantic federal milk marketing orders. USDA will respond to the other issues raised at the hearings after it has completed reviewing them, he said.

The recommendations shortening the payment period will

appear as a proposed rule in the Sept. 26 Federal Register. Copies are available from Norman K. Garber, acting market administrator, 708 Third Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. 10017-4101, telephone (212) 309-1600, or from the Dairy Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

Comments or exceptions to the recommendation, in six copies and postmarked no later than Oct. 17 should be sent to the Hearing Clerk, Rm. 1083-S, Washington, D.C. 20250, where they will be available for public inspection.

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