



Business News

NFU Applauds Decision To Delay BGH

DENVER, Colo. — Leaders of the 250,000 member National Farmers Union (NFU) said the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's decision to postpone the approval of the controversial bovine growth hormone (BGH) shows that concerns surrounding the use of the chemical are serious.

An FDA official announced Monday that a decision on approval of BGH will not be made until at least next spring. Companies seeking approval of the product had predicted that FDA would OK it early this year.

The postponement came shortly after Farmers Union members and representatives of other farm and consumer groups convinced state legislators in Minnesota and Wisconsin to pass measures forbidding BGH use for a period of time, even it is approved.

Farmers Union members from several major dairy producing states have been voicing concerns about the product for months, saying that it would lead to overproduction of dairy goods while consumer worries over the hormone's safety would cause consumption to fall off.

"This delay really exemplifies

the power people can have in influencing government decisions," said NFU President Leland Swenson. "BGH is not good news for farmers, consumers, or anybody other than the chemical companies promoting it — and FDA is now realizing that."

A spokesman for the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine told a group of farm writers in Washington this week that approval of BGH was being delayed until more data is available on the hormone's effectiveness and its effect on cows injected with it. Independent studies by several researchers have indicated that data provided by the companies that want to produce BGH has not provided clear evidence of its safety for humans or for dairy cows.

The Farmers Union's major concern has regarded the potential economic impacts for farmers if BGH becomes widely used. "We can already produce more milk than we need too, as evidenced by dairy herd buyouts and cheese giveaways in recent years," said Swenson. "Technology that increases the production of a product that can already be overproduced is not a breakthrough at all."

Farmers Union Continues To Oppose BST

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania and New York legislators must be urged to introduce legislation to protect the livelihood of the family farmer and the health and economic well-being of all consumers.

Pennsylvania Farmers Union wishes to commend our Representatives for passing H.R. #190 in October of 1989. This resolution asked for a delay in the commercial sale of bovine somatotropin (BST) until an extensive study could be done to determine the impact it would have on consumers and dairy farmers and on cows that receive the hormone. However, much work still needs to be done by our legislators on both the state and national levels.

Pennsylvania and New York Farmers Union members congratulate the legislators of Wisconsin and Minnesota for passing legislation and further congratulate Governor Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin and Governor Rudy Perpich of Minnesota for signing legislation mandating a moratorium on the sale of milk produced from BST-injected cows.

Synthetic BST (also called bovine growth hormone, or BGH) is a genetically engineered version of a cow growth hormone that stimulates increased milk production by up to 25 percent when injected into dairy cows.

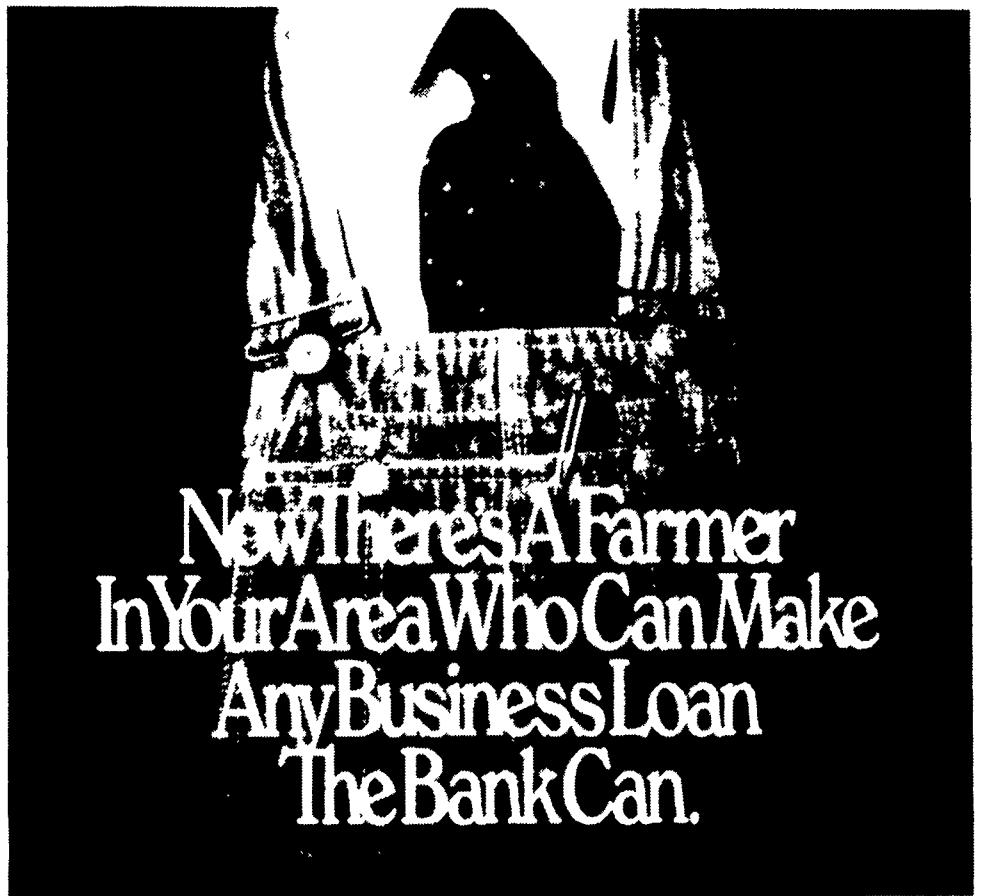
Legislation mandating a one-year moratorium on commercial BGH use was signed in Minnesota

by Governor Perpich in April. Wisconsin Governor Thompson signed legislation the last week of April that mandates a moratorium on the sale of milk produced from BGH-injected cows. The moratorium will be imposed for a period of one year.

An FDA official announced Monday that a decision on approval of BGH Will Not be made until at least next spring. Companies seeking approval of the product had predicted that the FDA would OK it early this year.

This postponement by the FDA came shortly after the Legislators of Minnesota and Wisconsin banned the sale of milk produced with BGH for a period of time even if BGH did get FDA approval. The FDA's handling of BGH has been widely criticized and is now under investigation by the U.S. General Accounting Office. There have been no independent, publicly funded studies on the long-term health effects of BGH on humans or dairy cows.

"Those states that have enacted legislation to put a moratorium on the sale of BGH-produced milk must be applauded. More data must be gathered before the health of dairy cows is needlessly placed at risk, causing farmers economic ruin. We need to assure the consuming public that milk will remain a safe and wholesome dairy product," said Bruce Krug, president of Lewis Co. New York Farmers Union.



Since 1917 farmers have taken kindly to Farm Credit because we're owned and controlled by people who really understand your business.

Farmers. Just like yourself. Thing was, we didn't exactly lay out a Sunday dinner spread of loans. Our menu was limited, and we knew it.

So recently we overhauled our lending system. We now offer competitive rates and options for loans we never could offer before.

Adjustable rate mortgages.
Revolving lines of credit.
Variable and fixed rate loans.

Terms of 30 days to 30 years. There's even a variety of services including insurance plans.

Some things do remain the same, however. The Farm Credit loan officer you talk to still makes most of the decisions.

And chances are he can do it faster than most bankers can say "bureaucracy."

So think about this for a moment. Who would you rather deal with for your next loan? A banker who merely wants your business. Or a farmer who knows it.

FARM CREDIT

Nobody knows the field better.

An ad campaign from Farm Credit Banks, Baltimore, Maryland recently won first place in the 1990 National Agri-Marketing Association's nationwide competition. The ad was created by Barker Campbell & Farley Advertising and Public Relations.

Farm Credit Ad Wins National Award

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA — An ad campaign for Farm Credit Banks, Baltimore, MD, has won first place in the 1990 National Agri-Marketing Association's nationwide competition. Created by Barker Campbell & Farley Advertising and Public Relations the campaign was judged the best agricultural four-spread series in the country.

The agency was also named a national finalist for its point-of-purchase ad and black-and-white single-page ad series which were

part of the Farm Credit ad campaign.

The ads show that the Farm Credit loan officer is both a farmer who knows banking and a banker who understands farming. In the winning four-color series, black-and-white single-page series and point-of-purchase ads, the bank officer is shown wearing the "uniform" of the farmer, bluejean overalls, while also clad in the banker's pin-striped suit. Another execution shows a youthful loan officer wearing a Future Farmers of America jacket.

"We knew the Farm Credit ads were award-winners right from the drawing board, but it's extremely rewarding to have NAMA label them as the best agricultural ads in America," said Jan Eliassen, account executive for Barker Campbell & Farley.

By winning NAMA's national competition, the agency has reached the highest peak possible for an ad campaign. The ads are running in regional and national magazines, including *Lancaster Farming*.

Planting Date Critical For Maximum Yields

NEWARK, Del. — Planting date is critical for maximum yields with either full-season or double-cropped soybeans, according to Bob Mulrooney, University of Delaware cooperative extension agent.

Independent studies by several researchers have indicated that data provided by the companies that want to produce BGH has not provided clear evidence of its safety for humans or for dairy cows.

"Thanks to the foresight of Legislators like those in Wisconsin and Minnesota and Governors like Thompson and Perpich, the public is protected from the greed of chemical companies that try to get drugs approved for the market before adequate testing is completed," said Allen Deiter, president of Pennsylvania Farmers Union.

Delegates to the National Farmer Union Convention in March approved a resolution calling for a nationwide three-year moratorium on BGH, saying it would allow adequate time for both sides of the issue to be further explored.

sion agent.

"The optimum planting time for full-season soybeans is mid-May to early June, Mulrooney said. "Planting full-season soybeans after early June will cause a reduction in yield. This yield penalty increases as the length of the delay increases. From June 1 to July 1, each week delay in planting will reduce yields by 1 to 2 bushels. After July 1, the yield penalty for delayed planting will be 2 to 3 bushels per week."

Planting date affects other agronomic characteristics as well, the agent notes. Very early-planted beans and late-planted beans will be shorter in height, lodge less, pod lower, and produce fewer branches than beans planted in mid-May. Depending on soil temperature, soil moisture, depth of planting, and soil structure, soybeans will emerge in 5 to 14 days after planting.

Mulrooney cautions farmers against rushing to sow soybeans into cold, wet soil early in the season.

"It is usually better to wait until the soil warms up," he said. "This

will favor rapid and uniform emergence, fewer disease problems, and a more uniform stand that can compete with weeds."

Planting date is far more critical for double-cropped beans than for single-cropped beans, the agent notes. Each day delay in planting double-cropped beans may result in a 1/2-bushel yield loss. A key to achieving high yields from double-cropped beans is to plant as early as possible. Mulrooney said the following management practices will allow double-cropped beans to be planted earlier:

- The planting date for double-cropped beans is limited by the harvest date of the preceding crop. Barley can be harvested one to two weeks earlier than winter wheat, thus allowing soybeans to be planted earlier.

- No-till planting into small grain stubble will allow soybeans to be planted earlier and conserve soil moisture as well.

- Both crops can be fertilized before the small grain is planted. This will reduce the preparation time prior to soybean planting.