

House Ag, Rural Affairs Committee To Hear From PMMB

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The state House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee is to meet Monday with members of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB) to discuss the board's current status.

The PMMB is an agency that assures a safe, adequate supply of milk at reasonable prices. It sets retail shelf prices of drinking milk and monitors and licenses the industry and establishes reasonable trade control and marketing practices.

Over the last two years, the PMMB has been operating with insufficient funding and has had its financial situation further aggravated by cuts to its budget. The state funds are those generated by taxes.

Because of the lack of funding, the agency was reportedly in jeopardy of going out of business.

State Rep. Kenneth Cole, D-Adams County, early this year said he met with Gov. Robert Casey and was assured that sufficient state funds would be provided to

the allow the board to stay in operation.

A proposal from the state Office of Budget, part of Casey's administration, had included the elimination of the total amount of state funding for 1990-91 as part of list of suggested cuts to current spending in order to prevent Casey's budget from carrying a deficit for the year.

A recent proposal from the Casey administration for a 1991-92 new budget offers no state support for the PMMB.

The meeting on Monday between the board and members of the House Ag and Rural Affairs Committee has been arranged by Rep. Cole, chairman of the committee.

"The purpose of the meeting is to hear a presentation from the Milk Marketing Board on its activities over the last few years," Cole

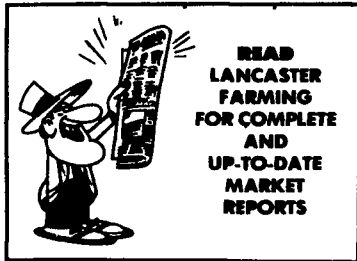
said.

"The committee is anxious to learn more about the issues on surrounding the Milk Marketing Board and its impact on the dairy industry. The committee will also gain a thorough understanding of the recent fiscal, managerial and programmatic problems facing the

board."

The meeting is being held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Farmers Association's legislative day in Harrisburg on Monday.

Cole said all area farmers are welcome to attend the meeting, scheduled for 4 p.m. in Room 140 fo the Main Capitol Building.



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The Lancaster Farmland Trust, a nonprofit organization that works to permanently preserve the county's productive farmland, will benefit from activities at the Ecology-In-Art show held in the Artworks at Doneckers Expo Center in Ephrata, from April 13 to 28. Hours are 11:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays; noon to 4 p.m. on Sundays; and closed on Wednesday.

In the photo, Ephrata Artist J. Scott Wolf painted the original artwork that is featured in the commemorative posters for the event. Wolff will be available to sign his work on Saturday, April 13, from 1 to 3 p.m.

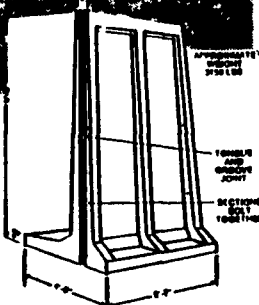
Sponsors include Stauffer Energy Products; Turkey Hill Dairy; Hi-Score Plant Food Company; Ephrata Diamond Spring Water Company; Lancaster Ford Tractor; Esbershade's Greenhouses; Strathmeyer Forests; Doneckers; and Paw Print Gallery.

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