

U.S. Judge Dismisses BST Lawsuit

ARLINGTON, Va. — A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Dairy Research Board

and Promotion and (NDPRB). The lawsuit was brought by the Foundation on Economic Trends (FET) and 14 dairy farmers.

The lawsuit contended that USDA and NDPRB were illegally promoting Bovine Somatotropine (BST) with dairy farmer checkoff dollars.

BST is a naturally occurring cow hormone which stimulates milk production. Scientists have developed a recombinant BST for use by producers to increase milk production.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is currently reviewing rBST for efficacy and cow safety. In 1985, FDA ruled that milk from BST test herds is safe for human consumption. Biotechnology opponents, including FET, however, continued to raise questions about milk from BST treated cows and human safety.

In an effort to alleviate growing consumer concerns about milk safety arising from FET's campaign, in 1990 the NDPRB began compiling and disseminating the scientific data with which FDA answered questions regarding milk from BST-treated cows and human safety.

FDA's data and conclusion had been reviewed and endorsed by the National Institutes of Health, the Office of Technology Assessment and the Government Accounting Office.

Additionally, *Science* and *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, prestigious science and medical journals, endorsed FDA's methodology and finding.

NDPRB distributed this information to doctors, food store managers, school food service officials, and interested media in order to inform credible third parties about milk safety and avoid adverse consumer reactions towards milk and dairy products.

Lester Evans, a Missouri dairy farmer and chairman of NDPRB, said, "It's gratifying to know that a federal judge views our efforts to protect the pure and wholesome image of milk as in line with our charter."

"NDB's focus has always been on milk's image; not on BST. We did this to protect milk and dairy sales and, thus, dairy farmers' livelihoods," Evans said.

The National Dairy Promotion and Research Board, composed of 36 dairy farmers, develops and administers a coordinated program of promotion, research and nutrition education to strengthen the dairy industry's position in the marketplace.



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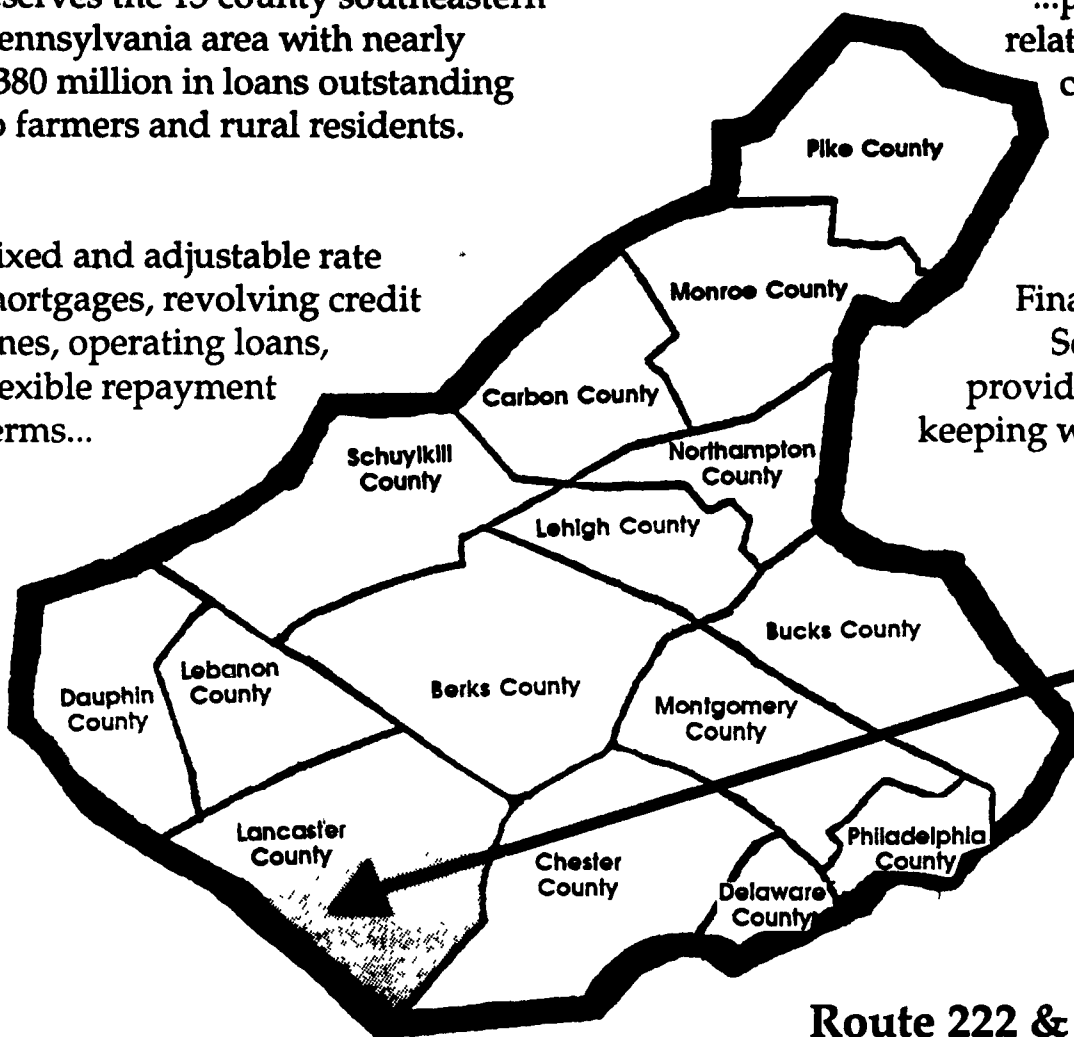
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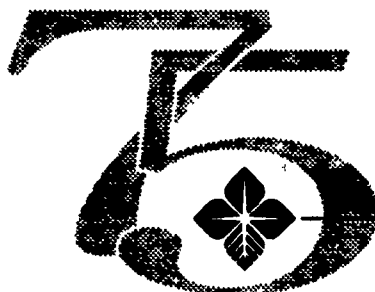
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