

Nutrient Management

(Continued from Page A1)

tion by nitrification, not only as it relates to agriculture; would be within the purview of the State Conservation Commission, an established board created to oversee the multi-government agency work done via county conservation districts; establish a regulatory review and advisory council to the commission; set up a system whereby farmers whose operations depend on high density livestock situations must establish a reasonable and workable means of controlling nutrients; and create a certification program for those who would create and approve such plans.

The proposal would also override local municipal ordinances and policies covering nutrient management.

Though the actual document is more specific, details have been reported previously in Lancaster Farming.

However, within the past three weeks, a group which was activated in 1991 in response to an unpopular version of nutrient management long since replaced, has announced its own version of nutrient management.

The Lancaster-based group is called Family Farm Movement and was organized and is headed by Allen Weicksel, of Peach Bottom. It is apparently not a formally established organization.

The proposal from the FFM is to set up additional levels of state and local government via commissions and full-time administrative services to establish a program whereby farmers who volunteer to create and operate their farms according to an operational plan (not just manure management) would be free from normal pollution prosecution.

The FFM proposal would allow local nutrient management ordinances. It does not address any other sources of nutrients.

And, any farmer not volunteering for the FFM program would be on his own and subject to full redress according to existing water protection laws.

The FFM proposal, as of presstime, had not yet received any acknowledgement of support from any political representative.

However, in newspaper reports published this week announcing the Coy-sponsored legislation, Weicksel has been quoted as saying that the House is attempting to "ram"

"ram" the nutrient management legislation through without proper public review.

Weicksel's vocal objections and allegations have caused some consternation for many close to the Coy proposal, especially those within statewide agricultural organizations which have been active in forming the Coy proposal.

While many did support a charge of "ramming through" last session because of a last-minute effort to get it passed, Crawford and many others involved with the process said they don't understand the basis of Weicksel's charges — especially since the proposal has just started its entire review process through the state Legislature.

"The process is above board," Crawford said, in response to criticism of Coy, attributed to Weicksel in published reports.

"The support (for the nutrient management bill) is broad. The intention is to move with deliberate speed to get this past the House, the Senate and on the governor's desk.

"Again, we have been at the counsel of the agricultural and environmental organizations.

"Anything that the ag and environmental people can agree to will be received favorably by Rep. Coy," Crawford said. "It's that simple."

Farm Credit

LEWISBURG (Union Co.) — Northeastern Farm Credit, ACA announces the addition of loan officer Gene Barrett to the Towanda branch office team.

Barrett began his career with Farm Credit on November 16, 1992. For the last two months, Barrett has been in training and orientation at the headquarters office in Lewisburg and also at the Farm Credit Bank of Baltimore District office.

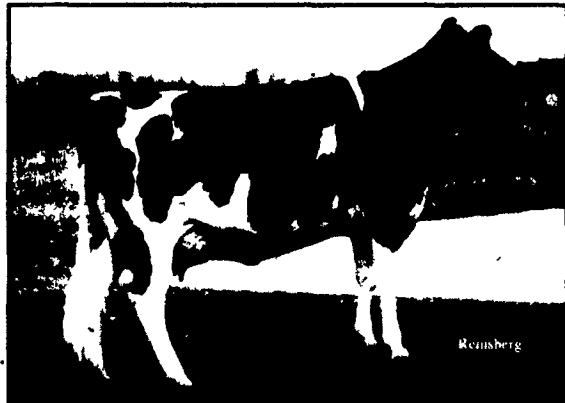
Barrett is a graduate of the University of Wyoming with a bachelor's in agricultural economics. Before joining the United States Air Force, he was employed by Taylor Beef and Formula One Feeds, Inc. In addition to his employment with Farm Credit, he



Gene Barrett serves as personnel officer in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. Barrett was born and raised on his family's Holstein dairy farm in Bradford County.

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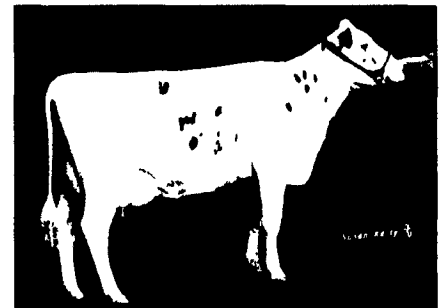
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