

# PFA Says Kill More Deer

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — The Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA) has called for the lowering of Pennsylvania's deer population to Pennsylvania Game Commission wildlife management goal levels and for new Game Commission programs to help farmers suffering deer damage.

PFA made its recommendations recently during testimony before the Game Commission.

Ellis Crowl, a York County dairyman and chairman of PFA's Wildlife Damage Control Committee, said, "I think we would all have to agree that a (Game Commission wildlife) management plan which allows for more than 40,000 deer to be slaughtered on the highways of the commonwealth annually, and a plan which allows for millions of dollars of crop losses annually, is not a plan with which we should be proud."

The PFA spokesman said the farm organization is eagerly awaiting results of a pilot "hots-

pot" program which allowed hunting on deer damaged farms in Bedford, Schuylkill, Crawford and Indiana counties during the regular antlered deer season last month.

Crowl said PFA believes such a program "has potential in areas where farms are surrounded by lands accessible to hunters." If it is successful, PFA will support the expansion of the program to other counties, "where a legitimate deer crop damage problem can be demonstrated," Crowl said.

"However, in areas where farms are surrounded by lands inaccessible to adequate numbers of hunters, other measures must also be attempted," Crowl said. "The Pennsylvania Farmers' Association continues to strongly request the commission consider some type of program to allow for permitted hunters to assist in the harvest of crop damaging deer," PFA's position is that a program could be devised to meet the needs of not only farmers, but also

organized sportsmen groups and the Game Commission.

"In the event individual programs are not successful in reducing wildlife crop damage on farms," Crowl said, "PFA policy supports the development of a crop damage compensation fund."

Crowl said that eligible dairy farmers in Wisconsin received up to \$5,000 in 1990 to pay for crop damage losses.

"This effectively reduces the Wisconsin producer's cost of milk production, and promotes unfair competition. Either reduce my damage, or allow me to produce milk on a level playing field with my competitors by compensating my losses, as Wisconsin farmers are being compensated," Crowl said.

Crowl also expressed concern for the farmers suffering crop damage due to an increased population in Canada geese.

While applauding Game Commission programs to lengthen seasons and bag limits in an effort to reduce populations of nuisance resident geese, PFA said the Game

Commission should support the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service when it issues depredation permits to control bird damage.

PFA also recommended the opening of the fall turkey hunting season in southwestern Pennsylvania where farmers are being "overrun" by turkeys.

"It is not our intention to condemn the Pennsylvania Game Commission," Crowl said. "We believe you are doing an excellent job in protecting the great wildlife resources of our state. We too support this resource. Unfortunately,

many of us are supporting it beyond our means."

Crowl said that when it comes to the problem of deer damage crops, farmers, "feel like, at times, we are being placed in the same category as other endangered species."

"As we move through this next year, we hope to see real progress in reducing the degree of wildlife crop damage," Crowl said.

PFA is a voluntary, statewide farm organization which represents 23,189 member families in 54 county associations.

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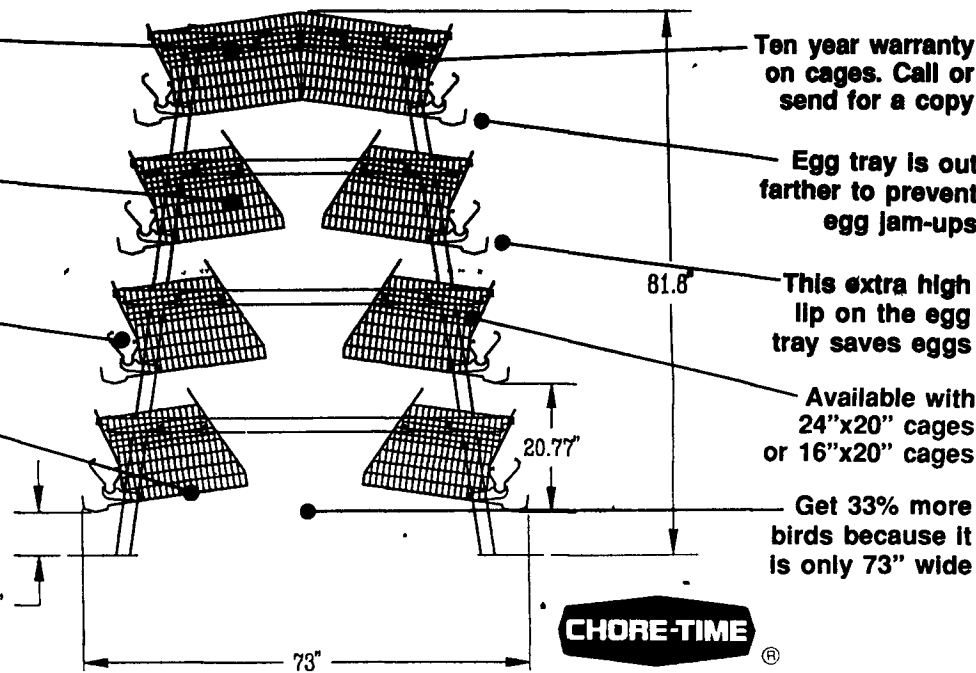
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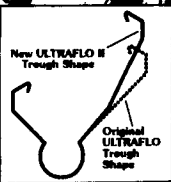


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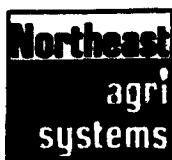
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## F.O.2 Producers To Vote

ALBANY, N.Y. — Dairy farmers in the milkshed will vote on the proposed amended New York-New Jersey Federal Milk Marketing Order (Order No. 2) in a mail referendum ending at 11:59 p.m., Feb. 18.

The amended order was contained in a final decision, on all federal milk orders, issued on Jan. 19, by the United States Department of Agriculture. It is based on the national hearing held in September, October, and November 1990.

Ronald C. Pearce, referendum agent, said all dairy farmers who delivered milk to pool plants and bulk tank units in April 1992 will be eligible to vote. A producer who is not a cooperative member will vote by individual ballot. A producer who is a cooperative member may vote collectively through the cooperative (if it has chosen this voting procedure) or may vote by individual ballot.

If the order as proposed to be amended is not approved by at least two-thirds of those casting ballots, the New York-New Jersey Federal Milk Marketing Order will be terminated.

The issues involved in the referendum include classification of milk uses and how reconstituted milk will be priced when made from nonfat dry milk or concentrated milk produced under another order.

Briefly stated, as amended, all federal milk orders will provide for three uniform classifications of milk use. Currently, a few orders have two classes of use, while most of the orders specify three classes, and some classification differences exist among the orders that have three classes.

Concentrated milk (milk that has had some of the water removed) that is shipped in bulk form from a plant regulated under one order to a plant(s) regulated under another order will now be treated the same as any other shipment of a bulk fluid milk product between such plants.

If such milk product is distributed as a labeled reconstituted fluid milk product by the receiving plant, the Class I use will be passed back to the originating order.

Currently, if such milk is assigned to Class I uses, the receiving market imposes on the handler that made the reconstituted milk a compensatory payment for the benefit of local producers.

Also, if a reconstituted product made from nonfat dry milk that was manufactured from producer milk under another federal order is distributed as a labeled reconstituted fluid milk product, the handler may elect to make a payment to the market where the nonfat dry milk was made. Such an option does not currently exist.

The changes to Federal Order No. 2 also are applicable to New York State Order No. 126 and New Jersey State Order No. 57-3. These concurrent state orders are essentially identical to the Federal order.

The final decision and the ballots will be placed in the mail soon. The referendum agent urges all eligible producers who are not voting collectively and who do not receive a ballot to contact the Referendum Agent at One Columbia Circle, Albany, N.Y. 12203-5156.