

State Budget Doesn't Cut Agriculture

(Continued from Page A32)

monitor the accuracy of reported levels on pumps at automotive refueling stations. "If it would be able to get through the Senate," he added.

"This budget does provide some additional funding for the Animal Health Commission and some additional funding for New Bolton."

On related issues, Lloyd said that the legislature is in the process of considering a capital budget bill, which would include some additional animal health money for Penn State.

"I'm also anxious to implement refinements within the farmland preservation law, but it doesn't require any additional state money," he said.

"If we can get agreement, we would like to pass a package of farmland preservation bills and also a package of food bills. I had passed a recodification of the Food Laws regarding labeling and adulteration. Sen. Madigan had passed a certification on organic products bill and we are attempting to come to a meeting of the minds so they could pass in tandem.

"For the balance of the year, one of my priorities is to attempt to pass the farm safety legislation which the committee approved several weeks ago (Sponsored by Indiana County Rep. Sara Steelman D-Indiana).

"It attempts to address the fact that agriculture is the most dangerous occupation that there is," he said.

According to Lloyd, the goal of the legislation is to create a government program of voluntary compliance in which a safety inspection of a farm would be conducted by the state and the results reported to an insurance company so that the farmers who rate a "safe" farm operation get a yet-to-be worked out, mandatory deduction on their insurance premium.

Lloyd he envisioned the program being somewhat similar to the existing program which allows premium reductions for those automobile drivers who have attended an approved driver's

training course.

Furthermore, on the farm safety issue and insurance benefits, Lloyd said he wanted to work on getting an extension of current premium reduction benefits to farmers, who are now not getting them because they may not have enough employees to form a safety committee, which entitles employers to a one-time 5-percent reduction in workers compensation.

Lloyd said the plan is to utilize an existing representative farmer organization, such as the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, to act as the organizer for such safety committees, set up perhaps within counties, to facilitate the program.

In the meantime, since the House adjourned early for summer recess, work on creating local tax reform legislation has been delayed.

The goal of local tax reform is to allow local taxing authorities the ability to tax incomes to help finance public services, instead of

relying on real estate values.

"Forcing local taxing authorities to use primarily real estate taxes has created a situation where farming operations with marginal personal income, end up paying far beyond what a neighbor making up to 10 times as much personal income is required to pay.

"I'm waiting to see what happens in the Senate. My guess is the House would not go along with the bill as it comes from the Senate. It would require further changes. But I think the two sides are close enough that an agreement could be reached sometime this year," Lloyd said.

Sen. Wenger said Monday that the Senate calendar (agenda) would close out the summer with nonpreferred issues and that the local tax reform is the "remaining large issue" statewide.

"I think we should have some de-emphasizing of the real estate tax, but the consensus is still lacking as how to put it together."

Argentina Buys 110 U.S. Jerseys

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — On April 16 of this year, 110 Jersey heifers boarded a DC8 stretch airplane in Miami and headed to Argentina, bound for a quarantine station on the final leg of a journey which began in February.

The animals were sold to A.A.A.C.I.F., a company owned by Maria De Perez Company, president of the Jersey Association in Argentina. This was the first export of commercial dairy animals to Argentina in many years, and the USDA officials working with Jersey Marketing Service (JMS) noted they could not remember a shipment of this size.

The animals were selected from Jersey herds in New England and South Carolina. After selection and an array of health tests, the animals were moved from their isolation facilities to Miami. From there they were flown to Argentina.

With Jersey breeders around the world looking to the United States and Canada for breeding stock, JMS is working to provide foreign buyers with the animal they are looking for. JMS works with sellers from coast to coast to provide a reliable and professional service to buyers of U.S. Jersey genetics. They have experience in marketing cattle and embryos to various countries, and make sure the proper paperwork and testing is done for each country.

So far during 1994, JMS has marketed Jersey genetics to Argentina, Guatemala, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, and Denmark. If you have animals or embryos for sale, contact JMS to help you with the best market for your Jersey genetics.

For more information, contact: The American Jersey Cattle Club, 6486 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-2362, call 614/861-3636 or FAX 614/861-8040.

Real Creamer For Coffee

(Continued from Page A6)

In yogurt, the lactose is converted to easily digested lactic acid.

Most cheeses have no lactose contents, because it's lost into the whey during cheese making. In fact, with its lactose sweetener and protein fortifier, commercial dry whey is widely used in bakery products.

Soy products contain no lactose, but they are also deficient in the valuable minerals and vitamins that distinguish real milk, primarily the calcium content.

Most of the soybean's mineral and vitamin content is lost during processing into imitation dairy products, though supplements are often added.

In terms of agronomic efficiency, it is possible to produce more than 400 pounds of soy protein per acre compared to maybe one-third that in milk protein. But dairy animals can graze where soybeans (or anything else) will not grow, providing excellent

food and a regular income not just once a year, but at least twice a month.

And don't underestimate the sociological value of milk production to the economic health of an entire country.

When I was in India not long ago, at a village milk collecting station, I noted the gleam in a farmer's eye when he was paid a few pennies, every morning and evening for the little can of milk that he delivered from his one cow.

In India they refer to the development of a productive village dairy industry as the "white" revolution.

In the United States, we have a much more productive and efficient dairy industry, but we take for granted milk's nutritional and sociological value. We aren't effective at promoting our great dairy products.

The replacement of non-dairy creamers by a conveniently packaged real milk product for coffee could be a boost to the U.S. dairy industry.

Illinois U. First Use Of Electronic ID

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has become the first herd in the nation to adopt the recently approved electronic identification option of identifying animals with the Holstein Association.

The system, based on radio frequency technology, utilizes the Texas Instruments' transponder in a button-like ear tag manufactured by Allflex USA. The first calves received their Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) ear tags in early May.

"This is a significant step forward," said Richard Nelson, Holstein Association executive assistant of domestic affairs. "It's good that we've moved ahead with an ear tag transponder after being stilled by the pending approval at FDA for an electronic implant."

Dr. Sid Spahr, professor of animal sciences at University of Illinois, said, "I'm pleased that the Association has taken a leadership

position on the implementation of RFID. Our experience and involvement in field trials makes us confident that the technology is at a level that will enhance management of dairy herds."

Dr. Spahr, world recognized pioneer in the use of electronic identification, has used many devices and related equipment in his research herd. Spahr has worked with the Livestock Conservation Institute and U.S. Animal Health Association committees in developing standards for implementation of electronic ID.

Neil Hammerschmidt, Holstein Association executive director, marketing and dairy herd services, working on implementation of RFID said, "RFID technology is at a level that warrants integration into on-farms systems."

"Providing one source of ID that integrates on-farm herd management computer systems, parlor ID, automatic feeding systems and breed registry and recording offers many advantages.

"This identification option will provide opportunities to many more dairymen, making our database more complete. Herd owners — in large herds particularly — are anxious to incorporate RFID."



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