

# 1994: A Year Of Changing Rules

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United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, the United State's population increased by 2.6 million last year, with one third of that gain coming from immigrants from other nations.

From July 1993 to July 1994, the Mid Atlantic region saw and overall increase of about 80,000 people, based on the balance of 560,000 births, 373,000 deaths, 256,000 people leaving, and 149,000 people immigrating from other nations.

Pressure from immigrants, including refugees (legal and illegal) from around the world, has created a great cause of concern for historic residents and communities as they watch their schools become crowded, living conditions worsen, established community services such as courts, prisons and police overwhelmed, and no compatible increase in funds to pay for the increased needs.

California made news this year in an attempt to ban illegal immigrants from receiving government benefits, such as free schooling and health care, services considered by many to be a privilege reserved for tax-paying citizens.

The issue can be expected to be long-lasting and controversial throughout, as communities change in makeup and intensity.

## Dairy Changes

In the dairy industry, farm numbers and cattle numbers in the state continue a slow decline, while milk production was relatively flat.

A new form of a disease called bovine virus diarrhea (BVD) was discovered in some herds across the state, mostly in the northwestern region. The new form apparently was controlled only by complete vaccinations, and officials quickly recommended new rules for health standards for showing cattle at county fairs and breed shows.

While dairy shows continued to be held, under caution, and many

high quality animals were exhibited, overall numbers were down, somewhat significantly for many shows.

Other rules changes pending in the dairy industry concern the testing of milk by the National Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

The gist of the rules changes is to maintain a high quality testing program, but to shift responsibility for verification of how the record data was achieved to the end user of the information supplied through the testing and records processing service.

Specifics are still being worked out, but should be announced late winter.

At the same time, uncertainty still describes the situation among individual DHIA testing centers and records processing centers. Mergers have continued to occur throughout the nation, and experiments between organizations have been tried in an attempt to determine the most affordable, efficient and reliable service to the dairy cattle and goat producer.

Throughout the industry, mergers have occurred as changing commodity prices and diminished memberships have pressured certain groups to combine.

Other groups have merged to strengthen market positioning.

One such major merger was between milk promotion efforts, with the creation of the Dairy Marketing Inc., a group which oversees the expenditures of funds from both the still-existing National Dairy Promotion and Research Board (NDB) and the United Dairy Industry Association.

The directors of the DMI are drawn from members of both the NDB and UDIA boards.

For Pennsylvania's Dairy Promotion Program, it's own affiliation with the Mid-East promotion group makes it a member of the DMI and entitles it to access to marketing information that individually, it would not be able to afford.

While the legality of the forma-

tion of that group had been questioned by some Western and Mid Western concerns, it has been ruled to be operating within legal restrictions.

## New Alliances

Other new alliances also formed.

Hershey Foods Corp., in Hershey, for the first time in its history, has contracted to have its fluid milk supplied by a single entity — Atlantic Dairy Cooperative.

The termination of its individual business relationships with more than 700 independent dairymen came apparently coincidentally

with an internal company administrative restructuring.

The chocolate company should be able to save on costs for maintaining staff to work with the individual producers, and the change should also reduce the need for Hershey to broker excess milk to other buyers.

## Internationally

With the passage of the GATT — the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade — international rules of trade have changed.

While few have had opportunity to read the contents of the thick document, it was approved by the

Democratically lead Congress, as a last act before the new Republican-powered General Assembly begins its session.

The outlook for certain agricultural operations should be good, because of an expected increase in exporting goods. However, small family farmers are expected to be hurt, and lawmakers said so, even immediately after approving the document.

How well the document's provisions are followed by participating nations remains to be seen, but many barriers to selling American products overseas are supposed to have been reduced, if not eliminated.

## Bay Office Awards Grants

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Education Office announced today the award of 26 grants for improving water quality within the Chesapeake Bay Drainage in Pennsylvania.

The 1994-1995 Mini-Projects grants provide up to \$750 to local environmental, civic, and community organizations within the Susquehanna and Potomac River watersheds in the state.

The two watersheds contribute 52 percent of the fresh-water reaching the Chesapeake. Daily activities such as fertilizing a lawn can impact the quality of water that enters local streams and eventually the Chesapeake Bay.

Each year, the Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Education Office supports citizen involvement in cleanup activities of the Chesapeake Bay by providing funds for projects designed to improve water quality in their communities.

Eligible projects emphasize how Pennsylvanians can improve local water quality to protect local

resources and the Chesapeake Bay. The objectives of the Mini-Projects are to:

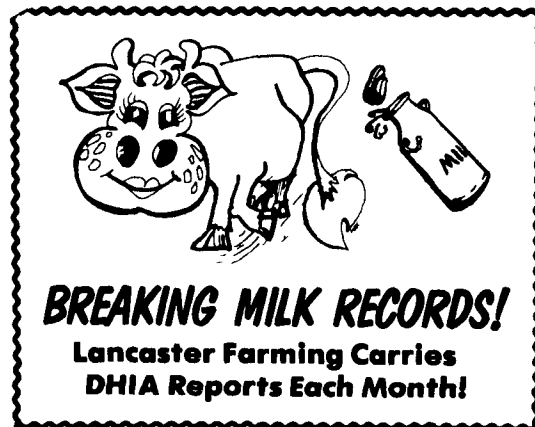
- Stimulate an awareness and interest in Pennsylvania's nonpoint source water pollution problems and solutions. (Nonpoint source pollution comes from the general drainage of the land and cannot be traced to a specific source.)

- Publicize and/or demonstrate the value of soil and nutrient sav-

ing practices in agriculture.

- Encourage farmers, homeowners, local officials and others to implement actions which can help reduce nonpoint source pollution, improve water quality, and help protect the Chesapeake Bay.

For more information on any of these projects, contact the Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Education Office, 225 Pine St., Harrisburg, PA 17101, (717) 236-1006.



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