PFB Presents Position On Farm Bill

HAMBURG (Berks Co.) — A spokesman for the state's largest farm organization today called for vigorous programs to strengthen export markets under the 1995 Farm Bill which will be debated and written by Congress this year.

Berks County dairman, John Stump of Bernville testified on behalf of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) at a field hearing conducted by Congressman Tim Holden (D-6th Dist.) on the dairy provisions of the next farm bill.

Stump is a member of PFB's Dairy Committee and chairs the Berks County Farm Bureau dairy committee. Rep. Holden is Pennsylvania's only congressman on the House Agriculture Committee.

"Much Farm Bill discussion is taking place to revamp or elimin-



Dr. Robert S. Hansen Extension Forester Bradford County

TENT CATERPILLAR TACTICS

I have been increasingly concerned over the past few days to read and hear individuals saying that the best way to take care of the eastern tent caterpillar and to get rid of the ugly tents is to soak the tents with a flammable liquid and then set fire to them. Others have said that they just take a small torch and burn them out.

These methods are, simply put, the worst ways to take care of this pest. Not only is this dangerous but it is also damaging to the tree!

Eastern tent caterpillars build their tents in the smaller, younger branches of the tree. These smaller branches have thin bark. Even if the bark shows no visible charring after burning out the tent, the cambium layer under this thin bark will be damaged. This will cause a dead area of cambium. This dead area is the perfect spot for other insects and/or fungal diseases to invade the tree. Over the long run this will decrease the trees health and vigor.

The best and safest way to take care of these pest at this stage of their life is treatment with a chemical pesticide. The tents should be opened with a knife and then the inside and outside of the tent should be thoroughly sprayed with a registered pesticide.

If you have questions on pesticides that are registered for use on eastern tent caterpillars and their use, call us at the extension office at (717) 265-2896. We will be happy to help you.

ate federal dairy programs such as the Dairy Price Support Program, Federal Order Program, and Dairy Export Incentive Program," Stump said.

For the current year, USDA is predicting a 4 percent to 6 percent drop in dairy producer income. More price reductions are forecast next year regardless of changes in farm policy.

According to the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute, elimination of various combinations of the dairy support, export incentive or federal order programs would mean an additional 73 cents to \$1.68 per hundredweight reduction in the allmilk price in 1996.

"Clearly," Stump testified, "elimination of these programs without some feasible replacement would only hasten the exit of many Pennsylvania dairy farmers."

Accordingly, Stump said, "PFB recommends the 1995 Farm Bill vigorously work to strengthen export markets, particularly in the area of value-added dairy products."

Any savings due to the reduction of federal spending for the dairy support program should be used to develop this area. Stump said, and the Dairy Export Incentive Program should receive the maximum federal funding allowed under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"We would support check-off dollars to help pay for such a program," Stump said, pointing out that such a check-off should not be confused with the present deficit reduction dairy assessments to which PFB is totally opposed.

In addition, Stump said, "Feder-

al orders should be strengthened rather than eliminated. However such changes need to be made by an expeditious hearing process, rather than legislatively."

One item needing correction, Stump said, is to allow parts of a Federal Order to be amended without risking elimination of the entire Order.

Commenting on the Clinton Administration's 1995 Farm Bill proposal, Stump said it suggests the support price level could be phased down in exchange for reductions in dairy assessments.

"Before this is done," Stump testified, "other replacements for the support price, such as a loan program for processors, should be considered."

In addition, the Administration's plan suggests a phase-down of fluid differentials, and implementation of multiple basing points.

"If greater equity among producers is being sought through these actions, cost of production differences should also be consid-

ered for each region," Stump said.

The Administration's farm bill proposal also addresses environmental concerns relating to water quality. Pennsylvania already has a strict nutrient management law, Stump noted. "Any attempts to encourage greater environmental protection should be accompanied by adequate revenue to implement such plans," he said.

Finally, Stump testified, the new farm bill "should not prohibit the states from enhancing the ability to enjoy an adequate supply of milk. As long as states do not infringe upon interstate commerce, they should be allowed to establish minimum producer, wholesale, and retail price levels."

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is a voluntary, statewide farm organization which represents 26,167 member families in 54 county farm bureaus. About 44 percent of PFB's members are dairy farmers. PFB is affiliated with the nation's largest general farm organization, the 4.4-million member American Farm Bureau Federation.

Golf Tournament Set

MCCONNELLSBURG (Fulton Co.)—The Sixth Annual South Central Holstein Championship Golf Tournament will be held Friday, Aug. 11, with the tee-off time starting at 11 a.m.

This year's tournament will be held at the Great Cove Golf Course in McConnellsburg. Any dairy farmers, agribusiness representatives, and friends are invited to participate. The tournament is being held in conjunction with the South Central Holstein Championship Show.

The tournament will be 18 holes, four person scramble. The cost is \$35 per person, which includes the entry fees, green fees, half a cart and buffet following the tournament at the Shippensburg Fairgrounds.

Your hosts this year for the tournament are Jim and Lisa Shaw. You can make your reservations by sending your request to Jim and Lisa Shaw, 128 Overhill Drive, Mercersburg, PA 17236 or you can call (717) 328-3596.

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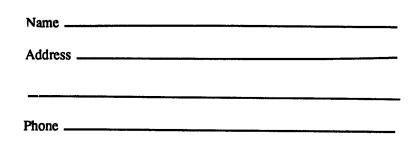
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