## **Farmer's Export/Import**

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into the export market. The partnership gives the commission a business foothold in Russia eliminating some of the restraints on foreign businesses in that country and provides a contact all the way through to the end consumer.

Komissarov came to the U.S. with a list of products he wanted to move into his country if the quality and the price were right. After the partnership was signed last Saturday, the search began for manufactured products that fit the foreign buyer's needs. By November 25 officials of the commission plan to have a \$125,000 order for corn starch, corn oil, and cream cheese

## Pa. Holstein Announces **Convention**

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) - The 1996 Pennsylvania Holstein Convention is to be held Feb. 22-24 at the historic Genetti Hotel in Williamsport.

Serving as host for this year's convention is the Central District. whose members are looking forward to providing state Holstein enthusiasts with a timpe of education and relaxation.

The Planning Committee, chaired by John Zimmerman, is working on a number of different programs ideas that will not only highlight Williamsport, but also offer an opportunity to learn more about the future of the industry.

Activities discussed include tours, a round-table presentation, a convention sale, a ladies' day program, the 83rd annual

set for 7 p.m., Feb. 22, and consignments are now, being considered. Those interested in consigning should call Bill Allen at (717) 944-1374.

The annual meeting is

Saturday morning, the wards banquet is scheduled.

ready for their first export shipment.

Coleman and Best told Lancaster Farming on Wednesday that the commission wants to cooperate with processors and farm cooperatives.

"Because we are a bunch of farmers we have been able to develop a grass roots communication with these people from Russia and other countries that is not always available to those at higher levels of the distribution chain," Coleman said. "But we need the input of our processors and farm cooperatives to help us with the know-how and the manufactured products to keep things moving forward."

Best agreed. "We do not plan to withdraw from or replace existing cooperatives. Our goal lies in the reduction of surpluses by exporting them. In addition, we hope to Dut fewer brokers between the farmer and the consumer of our farm products."

The organization of the commission has revolved around the incorporation of two companies with dual memberships that give voting privileges and 100 percent shares of the dividends to farm producers only. A different class of membership has been offered for nonproducers with no voting privilege and only a 25 percent share of the dividends.

Up to October 1, each membership was sold for \$100 and 500 farmers and other interested investors tied into the commission. At present no new memberships are being offered. After January 1, 1996, additional memberships may be sold with an unofficial figure discussed at \$4,000 each.

"We really don't know if the



Export/import commission members at the signing of the Russian partnership. From left, seated, Allen Weicksel, commission director, and George Komissarov, St Peteraburg businessman. Standing, Robert Best, Holtwood; Jack Coleman, Ronks; Herb Graybill, New Providence; Leroy Welk, Quarryville; Dan Siegfried, Nottingham; Jane Balmer, Mt. Joy; Robert Wenger, Drumore, secretary; John Best, Holtwood, treasurer; Irene Souchkova, St Petersburg, Interpreter; Ed Harnish, Christiana; Chuck Groff, Quarryville, auditor; Lloyd Weik, Quarryville, president; and Charles Tindali, Peach Bottom. Commission members missing from the photo are, Karl Herr, Oxford; David Steward, Delta; Ken Wiker, Rawinsville; Don Eckman, Peach Bottom; Dave Byers, Buck; and Scott Shoemaker, Kirkwood.

commission will make it or not," Best said. "but we now have more offers to buy products than we are able to supply with our present efforts to develop sources of products for export. And we read in the papers that farmers should diversify and develop new enterprises. For us this is one way to try to diversify.'

While the local foreign trade group has already found it may be

hard to compete with the European market, they have eliminated the broker's commission their Russian partnership. In addition, the trend in other countries is to deal more directly with the producer. This gives the commission another advantage. And because many different farm commodities are available in Southeast Pennsylvania, the foreign buyers can get all the different products they want right from the commission.

Products to be offered include corn starch, corn oil, cream cheese, powdered milk, poultry, pork, and beef products.

With the first partnership in place and the prospect of the first shipment due out later this month. enthusiasm is running high. Many farmers have called this a historic moment in the life of Pennsylvania Agriculture.





