

# Ag Dept., PMMB Reach Agreement On 1995 Farm Bill

**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) — The Agriculture Department and the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB) announced they have reached agreement on key dairy proposals for the federal 1995 Farm Bill.

In an unprecedented joint statement, Agriculture Secretary Charles C. Brosius and Leon H. Wilkinson, PMMB chairman, said

they have agreed upon several major points which they will seek to have included in the farm bill now being considered in the U.S. Congress.

"This is a significant sign of solidarity in Pennsylvania, and the proposals which we are putting forward offer a common-sense approach to milk marketing," Brosius said.

## Cow Comfort Translates

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knocked it down.

Other causes may be inadequate structural connections — the load will follow the load path to the ground and find the weakest link and break there.

Royer said that when following truss bracing design, he refers to the standard, HIB-91, available from the Truss Plate Institute. To receive a copy, contact the Institute at 583 D'Onofrio Dr., Suite 200, Madison, WI 53719, (608) 833-5900.

Royer emphasized the importance of proper storage of trusses (either completely upright or completely flat on a level, solid surface) and proper handling of trusses (with the use of temporary bracing as the construction is taking place). Temporary bracing helps to avoid wind damage on the permanent truss structure. Permanent bracing, the builder's responsibility, should be a part of the final building design.

Permanent bracing is used on the top chord, the bottom chord (ceiling), and webbing. A combination of diagonal and lateral bracing is used on the top and bottom chords. A series of X-bracing is used in the webs.

In the HIB-91 standard, taken into account is the wind load (from 70 mph in southeast Pennsylvania and inland) and up to 110 mph near the shorelines. Snow load ranges from 25-30 pounds per square foot in this area, and higher when farther inland.

Often, township building codes for farm buildings don't require adequate additional truss bracing. But building codes may be necessary to ensure against possible collapse from wind and storm loads.

In the final design, factors such as unbalanced loading (from drifting snow) need to be taken into account on truss design. Also, load path must be complete all the way to the properly designed footing.

Those who want to put up a building should follow common sense, according to Royer. "With a little bit of experience and common sense, you can pretty much get a feel for a building that is properly

designed," he said.

### Continuing Family Business

Gary Heim, attorney with Mette, Evans and Woodside, and Liz Brown, tax consultant and preparer, spoke about some of the strategies farm businesses can use to transfer assets and the business enterprise to succeeding family members.

One of the ways that estate transfers often prove troubling, according to Brown, is the lack of communication between farm family members. Communication is necessary and important,

"Implementation of these suggestions will improve income for Pennsylvania dairy farmers while being sensitive to serious budget restraints at the federal level.

"The dairy industry represents 40 percent of the agricultural economy in Pennsylvania. We must continue to work to influence the outcome of the new dairy legislation."

Wilkinson said that the PMMB recognizes the importance of working together with the Agriculture Department in providing input for the 1995 Farm Bill.

The PMMB is an independent entity created to regulate the milk industry. The board is charged with licensing milk haulers and handlers, establishing over-order prices, and operating a producer security fund, among other duties.

Brosius said that the current federal assessment of \$0.1125 per hundred weight on dairy producers intended to reduce the federal deficit has been a burden and should be eliminated. The dollars saved by that step could be used more effectively to help dairymen increase their profitability.

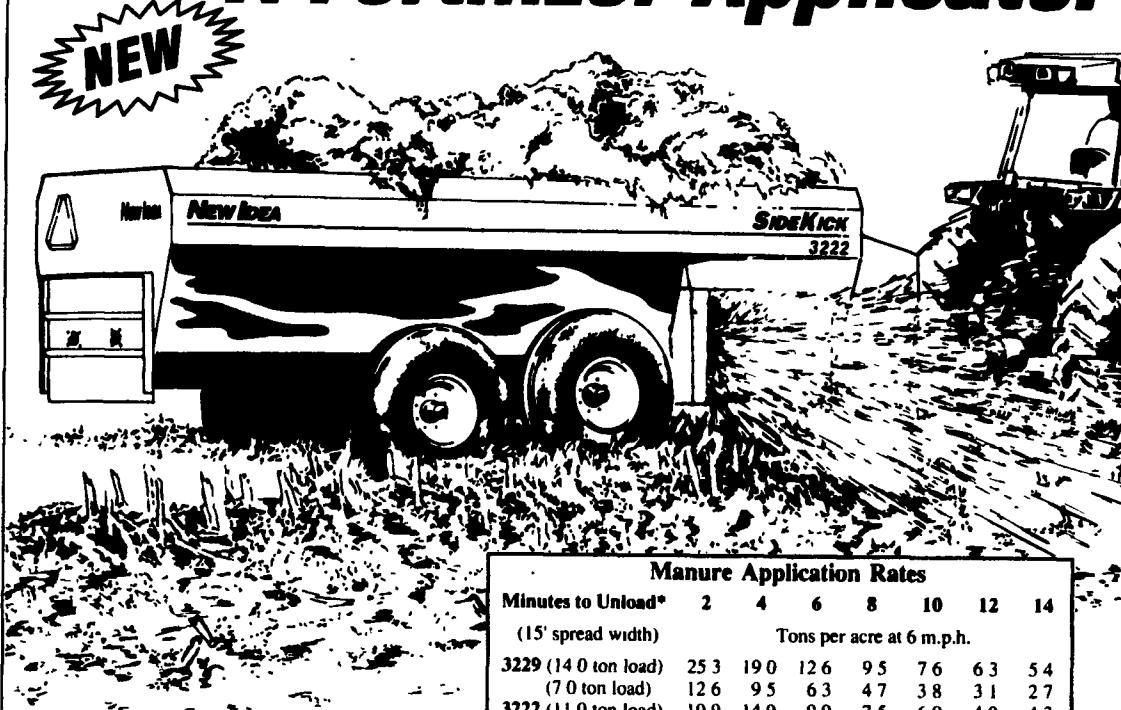
The department and PMMB said they support full federal funding of all dairy export programs, including funding of the Dairy Export Incentive Program and other promotional programs designed to increase dairy exports. Funding for expanded export programs can be generated from efficiencies built into the bill, and from consolidation of federal market orders.

Consolidating existing federal market orders will eliminate disparity in pricing structures, pooling requirements and classification. It also will allow for the preservation of the best characteristics of each order while eliminating some of the confusion and instability of the present system. A recognition of regional differences would benefit the state's dairy industry.

Both state agencies support the development of Class I price differentials based on regional marketing characteristics to replace the current system of basing differentials on the distance from Eau Claire, Wis. Regional price development will more accurately reflect market conditions.

Brosius and Wilkinson also support replacement of the Minnesota-Wisconsin pricing scheme. They said they believe that a Class III price developed according to current prices being paid for manufactured products more accurately reflects market conditions.

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