

Keystone Pork Expo

NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.) - The annual Keystone Pork Expo will be held Feb. 11 at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center here at the Lebanon Fairgrounds.

This year's meeting will feature a trade show with more than 40 exhibits, and educational seminars for producers.

The Expo will once again sponsor a "Pork Bowl" contest and public speaking competition for competing FFA and 4-H members

Greg Andrews, an attorney from Grimes, Iowa, will speak on nuisance complaints and law suits. Andrews represents clients and coordinates the Pork Producers Environmental Law Education Network, a project funded by the National Pork Producers Council. He will answer questions on nuisance law, zoning, and environmental regulations for the Pork Producers Environmental Law Hotline. At the Keystone Pork Expo, Andrews will address

legal issues, community relations, how to avoid lawsuits, and strategies producers should develop if they are sued.

Doug Goolander, Bureau of Plant Industry, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, will provide highlights of the recently implemented Nutrient Management Act. Many livestock producers had to comply with the new regulations on Oct. 1, 1997. For some farmers, there are questions that remain regarding the new law.

Lou Moore, Penn State professor of agricultural economics and continuing Pork Expo favorite, will be on hand to deliver his hog market outlook

At 1:30 p.m., results of the seventh annual Legislative Activity Fund Auction will be announced. This year, all items will be sold by silent auction.

Keystone Pork Expo programs will be available in mid-January in most county extension offices.

Justice Department Will Not Block Formation Of Dairy Farmers Of America

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — The U.S. Justice Department Antitrust Division has decided to close its investigation of the consolidation of four dairy marketing cooperatives into Dairy Farmers of America. The decision means Justice will not attempt to block the consolidation, now scheduled for January 1. News of the decision was greeted by DFA leaders with enthusiasm as they prepare for the first DFA corporate board of directors meeting on December 29-30 in Kansas City.

The Justice Department announcement is the last hurdle in a yearlong consolidation process

that will join Associated Milk Producers Inc. (AMP) Southern Region, Mid-America Dairymen Inc. (Mid-Am), Milk Marketing Inc. (MMI) and Western Dairymen Cooperative Inc. (WDCI), to form Dairy Farmers of America Inc. (DFA). Documentation will be filed with the appropriate Secretaries of State prior to the end of the year to permit the consolidation transactions.

According to DFA Board Chair, Herman Brubaker, a dairy farmer from West Alexandria, Ohio, the first meeting of the DFA corporate board will focus on establishing policy and operating

procedures for the new organization. The board will also discuss capital and operating plans and establish ground rules for member agreements.

"We've come a long way in the past year, but there is much to be done in the next few months," said Brubaker. "These early meetings will be particularly important as they will set the course for our new organization. Our goal will be to make sure that our actions benefit the dairy farmer we represent back home."

Dairy Farmers of America will begin operation on January 1, 1998 as a new dairy marketing cooperative with 22,000 member farms in 42 states. DFA will market more than 32.5 billion pounds of milk supplying joint-venture bottling plants and its own manufacturing plants that make a complete line of dairy products for retail and institutional customers in the United States and around the world.

Vegetable Meeting Set

WESTMINSTER, Md - On Tuesday, Jan. 13, there will be a Vegetable Update Meeting here at the Carroll County extension office.

The focus will be a back-to-basics approach, examining general insects, and diseases of vegetables.

Other topics include pesticide recertification, an update on Farm Service Agency programs, holding over plastic mulches for a second year of production, and an update on new cultivars of old crops for additional market appeal.

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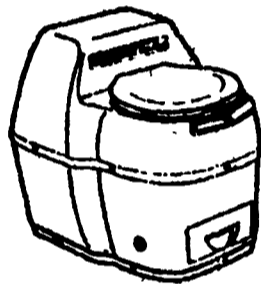
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