

New York Farm Bureau Seeks Dairy Compact Legislation

GLENMONT, N.Y. — New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman signed legislation recently allowing New Jersey to join the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact.

Similarly, New York's Senate Agriculture Committee passed the

"Dairy Compact Bill."

New York Farm Bureau hopes that the New York Legislature will follow New Jersey's lead and adopt the legislation.

"It is amazing how a state like New Jersey, which is home to only 230 dairy farms, can over-

whelmingly pass legislation that will financially help their dairy farmers in an economic crisis," said John Lincoln, New York Farm Bureau president.

"Here, in New York, where the dairy industry holds more promin-

ence in the state's economy, legislators have yet to decide which direction to take with the Compact. I commend New Jersey for passing the Dairy Compact Bill and hope New York will do the same."

Unlike New Jersey's dairy industry which generates \$44.8 million and only accounts for 6 percent of the state's farm receipts, New York's industry is much larger.

New York's dairy industry is the largest sector of the state's largest industry. State dairy farmers contribute more than \$1.32 billion to the state's farm receipts — that is 50 percent of the total revenue.

Losing such an industry would financially upset the state and would economically devastate rural, upstate New York.

There are more than 8,900 dairy farmers remaining in New York, most of whom are struggling to overcome an intense cost/price squeeze that the current milk pricing system has forced upon them. These farmers need an immediate

solution and joining the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact is an answer to this problem which can be implemented easily.

As stated in the Compact, "Each new state must be contiguous to a participating state."

With the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact implemented in the six New England States, the Compact leaves New York as the "gatekeeper" for states to the south, such as New Jersey and Pennsylvania, to join.

"It is unfortunate that New Jersey's entry in to the Compact rests on New York's decision, but New York can help those farmers and the farmers of this state by passing the legislation," said Lincoln.

New York Farm Bureau is the statewide lobbying/trade organization that represents more than 28,400-member farm families. The organization is known to its members and the public as "the voice of agriculture." Farm Bureau is dedicated to solving economic and public policy issues challenging the agricultural industry.

New ID System

Submitted by Nick Place

Susquehanna County Cooperative Extension Director

MONTROSE (Susquehanna Co.) — Beginning Jan. 1, a new system of identifying dairy cows went into effect.

The new identification numbers, called "American ID Numbers," are to be accepted by any United States database as an animal's primary identification and

are compatible with international systems, according to Chuck Sattler, genetic programs administrator, National Association of Animal Breeders.

Animals currently enrolled in DHIA or breed programs will not need to be renumbered, Sattler said, but calves and animals re-

ceiving their first identification number will be issued an American ID Number once the transition is complete.

Dairy producers who do not currently ID their animals through DHIA or one of the breed organizations will not be required to do so under the new system.

"But I'm convinced we'll face more and more pressure on the food safety side" of the industry, said Sattler.

The thrust behind the change was to unify the handful of numbering systems in the U.S. dairy industry. Reprinted with permission Dairy Profit Weekly, December 22, 1997.

Woodland Owners Conference Scheduled

WILLIAMSPORT (Lycoming Co.) — The Northcentral Pennsylvania Woodland Owners Conference is scheduled for Saturday,

March 7, at 9:45 a.m., in the Penns Inn of the Alvin Bush Center at the Pennsylvania College of Technology, Williamsport.

The conference is designed to inform woodland owners and others about the many aspects involved in owning and caring for woodlands.

The opening keynote speaker will feature Linda Fitterer, president of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association and woodland owner. Her address is titled "What Woodland Owners Should Know." In addition to Fitterer's keynote, Mike Ondik, a wildlife management consultant, will present "Managing the White-Tailed Deer."

Attendees will have the option of choosing from several topics offered during three concurrent sessions beginning at 1 p.m. and concluding at 3:30 p.m.

The sessions include: "How Timber Value is Determined," "Pond Management: Construction and Stocking," "Landowner Liability — Recreation," "Marketing Timber From Your Woodlot," "Conservation Easements and My Woodlot's Future," "Forest Products - Veneer," "Pond Management — Long Term Weed Control and Fisheries," and "Wildlife Habitat Improvement."

Guest speakers include Richard Lauchle of Lauchle Lumber Co.; Steve Means of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; J. Michael Wiley of Rieders, Travis, Mussina, Humphrey, and Harris Law Firm; Dr. Jim Finley of the School of Forest Resources, Penn State; Renee Carey of Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy; Dan Pinesenault of Keystone Veneers; and Jerry Hasinger of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

The conference fee is \$20 per person and includes lunch. Two individuals from the same property can register jointly for \$30. Registration after February 20 will not be eligible for this discount. The registration deadline is March 3.

This event is an outreach service of Penn State Cooperative Extension, Penn State Continuing Education, and the Pennsylvania College of Technology in cooperation with Keystone Veneers, Inc., Lauchle Lumber, Lycoming County Conservation District, Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy, Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Pennsylvania Forestry Association, Lycoming County Woodland Owners Association, Woodland Owners of Centre County, Central Susquehanna Woodland Owners Association, Bradford-Sullivan Forest Landowners Association, and Clinton County Forest Landowners Association.

For registration brochures contact your county Penn State Cooperative Extension Office, Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy (717) 323-6222, Penn State Continuing Education at Penn College (717) 322-5771, Lycoming County Conservation District (717) 433-3003, or the Bradford County Cooperative Extension Office at (717) 265-2896.



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