



Senate Approves Dairy Compact Legislation 44-6

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — As had been expected, the state Senate on Wednesday approved (44-6) legislation authorizing Pennsylvania to join the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact.

That's one step toward Pennsylvania being included in the Compact.

There are several more that would need to be taken.

The state House of Representatives also has to approve it. Gov. Tom Ridge would then have to sign it into law. The federal Legis-

lature would have to see fit to pass legislation expanding the Compact to include additional states, and also reauthorize the Compact to extend beyond its scheduled Oct. 1 termination.

The proposed state Compact legislation has been sent to the state House of Representatives, where leadership has to decide the schedule and track it will take.

The state House of Representatives already has had two versions of Compact legislation proposed by its members. Those proposed pieces of legislation are under review by the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee,

headed by state Rep. Raymond Bunt.

During a House Ag Committee hearing and subsequent, if not related, meetings, it has become obvious that sides have been drawn on the issue.

Generally, national and regional producer and milk marketing

cooperatives, as well as farm policy organizations have been promoting the creation of a Compact to set prices for farmers and consumers.

Opposing are smaller cooperatives, independent producers and independent dairy producers, as well as food manufacturers.

The House versions are similar to the version sponsored by Sen. Roger Madigan.

While the Senate version has been sent to the House, no further action should be expected until at least the first week of May, when the House resumes session.

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Partnership To Protect Watershed Demonstrates Work At Farm

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
BIRD IN HAND (Lancaster Co.) — One project may prove that long-term, multi-agency efforts to bring together environmental protection groups and farmers can pay off.

On Earth Day — Thursday this week — a group of about 40 partners working to enhance the aquatic and overall environmental restoration of the Pequea-Mill Creek watershed met on the Leroy Miller farm north of Bird In Hand

to see stream habitat improvement take place.

State environmental protection agencies, restoration specialists, contributors to the Pequea-Mill Creek project, legislators, and agri-industry representatives toured the work being done to repair and restore the Muddy Run, a tributary to the Mill Creek, on the Miller farm.

The farm, according to David Wise, program biologist with the Ducks Unlimited and Chesapeake

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No matter how many years Torrie Frecon is in the orchard business, the spectacular springtime blooms always bring a special thrill. Read more about the Frecons who are part of a three-generational orchard business in Boyertown, Berks County. Photo by Lou Ann Good.

Beef Producers Honor Several, Name Queen

JINNY WILT
Adams Co. Correspondent
BONNEAUVILLE (Adams Co.) — The Adams County Beef Producers honored several people, presented \$10,000 for a county ag center, and named a 1999 queen and ambassador during the 23rd annual Beef Ball and bull parade.

At the event held at the Bonneauville Fire Hall, the group presented Achievement Awards of \$600 each to:

- Allyson Anne Cole, senior at Littlestown High School, who has been accepted at the University of Wyoming to major in agricultural education. She is the Pennsylvania FFA state reporter and a junior member of the Texas Longhorn Breeders Association of America.
 - Wayne Flickinger, sophomore at Iowa State University majoring in agricultural engineering. Wayne has a small herd of Limousins
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Adams County Beef Producers named a queen, ambassador, and alternate recently. Serving as alternate, left, is Andrew Seymore of York Springs. Janel Keller, student at Gettysburg High School, is queen, and B.J. Wagner of Orrtanna, also a student at Gettysburg High School, is ambassador. Keller and Wagner will serve as a team representing the beef producers and Seymore will fill in if either of the other two are unavailable.

Poultry Industry Celebrates New Beginning

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — More than 1,000 supporters from 26 states showed up at the Spring Poultry Banquet at the Lancaster Host Resort on Tuesday evening. The \$100-a-plate dinner serves as an annual fundraiser for the poultry industry.

The banquet also celebrated the poultry industry's new collaborative effort with the PennAg Industries Association.

Last year, the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation merged with PennAg to provide better and more efficient use of dues dollars and a more united association. Under Penn Ag's umbrella, the Poultry Council addresses the needs of the industry.

PennAg Poultry Council leaders Jim Adams, chairman; Jack Conrad, president; and Jim Shirk, assistant vice president, shared how the alliance between the Poultry Council and PennAg Industries strengthens the organization and marks a new beginning to promote and enhance the poultry industry in Pennsylvania.

Conrad said that the organiza-

tion will work to be an effective force at both state and national levels. He said, "We can be a leader on Capitol Hill to make a difference in agriculture."

Shirk explained that the basic structure of the Poultry Council remains the same as it had been with the Federation. The council will push for egg and poultry research, address health and safety issues, and plan special events promoting the poultry industry.

PennAg is the oldest agribusiness trade association in the U.S., according to a spokesperson for the

industry. Established in 1878, the association addressed the concerns of local millers. Later the association served as a feed industry lobbying group.

To meet the challenges of the changing agricultural climate, the association changed its name several times and adapted new policies. The Pennsylvania Agronomic Products Association representing pesticide and fertilizer dealers became part of PennAg in 1997.

Last year, the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation merged with

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Grange Day Celebration Features Compact Support

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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania State Grange on Monday highlighted its annual Grange Day celebration and legislative luncheon program at the Ramada Inn in Harrisburg with a rally of supporters for state legislation to enable potential inclusion in the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact.

The rally was a pre-luncheon press conference about the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact and the need for it.

All participating in the conference were in full support of Pennsylvania adopting legislation to join the Compact.

The rally was part of an all-day activities event featuring luncheon

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