

# MILK AMERICA'S HEALTH KICK

## Farm Bureau Wants Investigation of Oil Prices

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.)—The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is urging the state Attorney General to investigate the cause of recent steep increases in home heating oil and diesel fuel prices which are impacting an agricultural community already on the ropes due to low farm prices and the aftermath of last year's drought.

In a letter sent this week to Attorney General Mike Fisher, the statewide farm organization called for prompt action on the crisis. Farm Bureau expressed its support for House Resolution 345 passed by the House of Representatives on Feb. 2 which calls for the Attorney General to investigate skyrocketing oil prices.

"Our farmer members are feeling the pinch of this price increase from both the business and personal side," said PA Farm Bureau President Guy Donaldson in the letter to Fisher. "This is leading to increased costs of operating machinery on the farm, as well as increased costs for hauling of commodities produced on the farm."

"Combined with the lingering effects of last year's drought and severe drops in milk and other commodity prices, many farmers are struggling and do not need this additional burden."

In addition, Donaldson stated, the price of heating oil, "... is 60% higher than it was this time last year and is continuing to rise. This is making it harder for already cash-strapped families to fully provide for their basic needs."

Farm Bureau is urging the Attorney General to undertake the investigation requested by the state House in H.R. 345 to determine the extent to which the recent price increases, "... are the result of legitimate market forces or unscrupulous business practices."

Furthermore, Farm Bureau is requesting the Attorney General to take any action necessary to minimize the impact of oil price increases, "... to consumers in general and Pennsylvania farmers in particular."

## Housing Conference

(Continued from Page A30)

into what I want before I finally do design the new system."

Randy Huntsman milks 350 cows in Martinsburg in Blair County. He is ready to begin breaking ground for another barn and expects to be milking 400 to 450 cows by mid-summer.

"I wanted to glean some ideas, and I was looking forward to talking to the vendors during Tuesday evening's trade show," said Huntsman.

Huntsman had questions about bedding choices and ventilation systems to best take care of cows during the summer. "We want to do whatever is going to bring the best bottom line," said Huntsman.

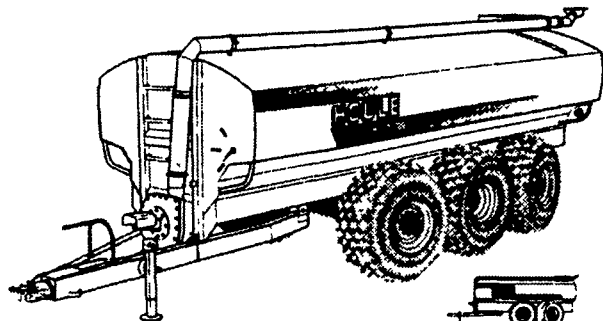
Those who attended the conference learned about the hot topic in planning dairy housing facilities — cow comfort. Everything from environmental control to freestall management and feed bunk design were discussed during the conference.

Look in next week's issue of the *Lancaster Farming* for a report on the freestall and bedding portion of the conference.

# HOULE

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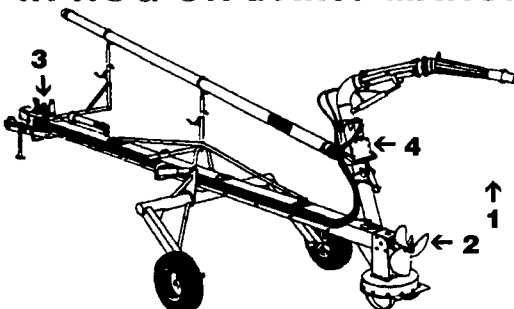
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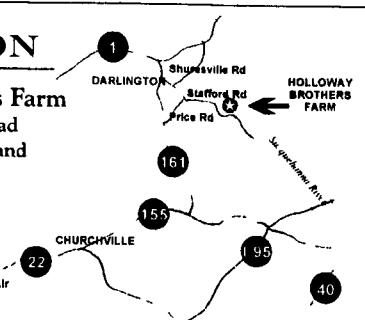
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