

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Provides National Legislative Report

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — "Farm Bureau has been involved in a lot of legislative activity in Congress in recent months aimed at helping to save costs and improve net income, both long term and short term, for farmers," said Guy Donaldson, president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. "Here's a report on some of the major issues Farm Bureau has been working on."

Crop Insurance/ Farm Assistance

President Clinton signed legislation H.R. 2559 passed by Congress to spend \$15.2 billion for crop insurance reform and farm assistance. The legislation provides \$8.1 billion for increased premium subsidies, and expansion of crop insurance programs, including revenue insurance for livestock.

Another \$7.1 billion is included for market assistance payments with \$5.5 billion going to Agricultural Marketing Transition Assistance (AMTA) and \$1.64 billion in payments for minor crops.

The legislation provides \$5.1 million for loss of income to fruit producers whose orchards must be destroyed because of Plum Pox Virus infection.

Permanent Normal Trade Relations For China Passes House

The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation granting Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) for China by a larger margin than expected.

The U.S. Senate agreed to consider the legislation and act on its passage without amendments. This action will avoid the need for the legislation to go to

conference, and will allow it to go directly to the President upon U.S. Senate passage.

However, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R.-Miss.) is withholding Senate action on PNTR for China. The speculation is that the Senate Majority Leader is holding the PNTR vote as a bargaining chip to gain more cooperation with the administration in passing appropriation bills.

The Senate is expected to pass the legislation by a wide margin. Sen. Rick Santorum (R.-Pa.) favors PNTR for China, while Sen. Arlen Specter (R.-Pa.) opposes it.

Estate Tax Eliminated

The House passed The Death Tax Elimination Act (H.R. 8) with a near veto-proof vote (279-136). The House-approved legislation repeals death taxes by the year 2010. The legislation retains assets (up to \$5.6 million) on a stepped-up basis when the tax is repealed in 2010.

The stepped-up amount would be indexed to increase automatically with the inflation rate. All estate sizes would retain stepped-up basis assets of \$1.3 million. If an estate were larger than \$1.3 million, the heirs could choose which assets retain the stepped-up basis. There would be an additional \$3 million of assets eligible for stepped-up basis on estates transfers between spouses, bringing the total value of stepped-up basis assets in such transfers up to \$4.3 million.

The legislation also reduces all estate tax rates by about 15 percent over 10 years and lowers the bottom effective rate from 37 percent to 18 percent. The top

rate is cut from 55 percent to 53 percent in 2001 and to 50 percent in 2002. All rates are reduced by one percent in 2003-2006 by 1.5 percent in 2007, and by two percent in 2008-2009. The unified credit is changed to an exemption in 2001 which lowers the bottom estate tax rate from 37 percent to 18 percent.

Pennsylvania's Congressional Delegation vote on the legislation split along party lines with Republicans favoring and Democrats opposing the legislation. Most Democrats are supportive of alternative legislation that would address elimination of estate taxes for family-owned businesses. The Senate is expected to act on estate tax elimination after the July 4 recess. Passage is questionable, and the Senate legislation is expected to mirror the House version. Sen. Santorum supports estate tax elimination, while Sen. Specter is undecided. President Clinton has threatened to veto the House passed measure.

Agriculture Appropriations

U.S. Representative George R. Nethercutt, Jr. (R.-Wash.) has proposed an amendment that would lift sanctions on agricultural and medical exports to Iran, Libya, North Korea,

Sudan, and Cuba. However, the amendment would allow the President to reimpose the sanction with both the House and Senate approval.

Lacking sufficient support to defeat the sanction's amendment in the House agricultural appropriations bill (H.R. 4461), House leadership delayed voting on the measure. A similar sanction amendment passed the Senate Appropriations Committee and was included in the Senate agricultural appropriations bill (S. 2536). Sen Lott will not allow the Senate to act on the agricultural appropriations bill until the House acts.

The estimated value of agricultural imports by these five currently sanctioned countries is \$7 billion. If sanctions are lifted, U.S. agricultural exports are expected to increase for rice, wheat, corn, soybeans, feed grains, milk powder, animal products, fruits, and vegetables.

Other Issues

The Veterans Administration Housing and Urban Development (VA HUD) appropriations bill contains language to delay the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from implementing its proposed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

changes for a year. The language prohibits EPA from spending funds to finalize or implement the TMDL rule. The House has passed (256-169) the VA HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill (H.R. 4635). The proposed TMDL changes would mean more regulatory compliance costs for farmers and owners of forest lands.

The Health and Human Services (HHS) appropriations bill stops the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) from implementing ergonomics regulations. The Senate passed the bill on a party-line vote with Democrats, joined by Sen. Specter, opposing it. The ergonomics proposal could affect many agricultural workplaces.

Rep. Richard Pombo (R.-Calif.) has introduced H.R. 4548, his long-awaited reform bill dealing with migrant labor. This legislation creates a new migrant labor program alongside the existing program to demonstrate the value of Farm Bureau-supported reforms.

"We will continue to work for implementation of our organization's policy goals on these issues," said Donaldson.

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Pa. GLFCC Sets State Dairy Grazing Field Day

MIDDLEBURG (Snyder Co.) — On Aug. 23, the Pennsylvania Grazing Lands Forage Conservation Coalition (GLFCC) will sponsor a statewide dairy grazing field day here at Mabarbil Farm operated by Tim and Denise Wetzel.

Tim and Denise milk 85 Holstein cows in a swing parlor. They practice intensive grazing on 242 acres with a good fence and water system.

The program will start at 10 a.m. at the farm.

The morning will feature the following speakers: Karen Sullivan, animal scientist with NRCS in New York; Donald Wild, western New York grazing land specialist with NRCS; and Alan Rotz, agricultural engineer with the USDA ARS Pasture Lab.

Sullivan will discuss feeding programs to optimize milk pro-

duction on pasture. Wild will discuss water systems for grazing systems. Rotz will discuss the economics of storing feeds for winter feeding programs.

The afternoon will feature a pasture walk on the Wetzel Farm. The pasture walk should end by 2:30 p.m.

Lunch will be provided, but reservations are required by Aug. 16. For reservations, call the Snyder County Conservation District at 570-837-0007 ext. 102.

The Pennsylvania GLFCC, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Snyder County Conservation District are sponsoring this event.

Directions: From the intersections of Rt. 104 and Rt. 35, go 1.5 miles north on Rt. 35 to the Mabarbil Farm on the left.

FARM EQUIPMENT

JD 930 MOCO Discbine w/Impeller Best Offer 717-445-6156

830 Int'l Chopper w/Extra Parts; CIH 8435 Round Baler, Silage Special. 570-265-2580

NH 353 Grinder/Mixer w/Unloading Auger Extension, Excellent Condition 610-285-6525

JD 2280 J.P. haybine A.C. 12 ft., cut, 800 hrs., ex. cond. \$11,000 OBO. Int. 560 N. F. gas dual remote \$3,300 OBO Adams Co. 717-642-9199.

Shaver post drivers, 3pt hitch complete, HC10 \$2150, HC8 \$1395. We can deliver anywhere. Taneystown Farm Eq. 410/751-1500.

Wisconsin eng, V461D, overhead valve w/ Rockford clutch, \$700. VF4 elec start eng, \$400. 717-652-1957

JD 640 rake w/dolly wheel, \$1450; Mohawk 7-tooth pull type chisel, \$1150; MF 175 dsl, \$6400. 610-562-4464.

NH bale wagons, all models, delivery available. 1-877-735-2108 406-883-2118 for FREE brochure. Farm Equipment Finding Service, Poson, MT

1998 JD model 870 dsl 4WD tractor, brand new, 100 hrs, w/loader, \$17,000. 908-879-5851.

John Deere 10, 20, & 30 series tractor parts, used & new. We ship. 800-730-4020.

MF 860 Combine, 4x4, 3100/hrs. Good Cond., \$14,000 717-733-2808

MF 410 combine, shed kept, good condition. 410/721-2446 after 8pm.

NH 615 disc mower, like new condition, \$4250 OBO. 717-898-2069.

AC D10, w/cultivator & fert attachment, restored, \$3,800. LanCo, 717-336-1282 eves.

3pth Farlund wrapper, like new. www.northeastequipment.com, 570-222-9090.

JD 337 rebuilt plunger, 30 ejector, ex. cond. 717-235-1766

New Holland LX 865 skid loader, turbo, diesel, 1996. 717-838-6265.

JD 643 lo tin 6R corn head, \$6500; Gehl 2170 haybine, \$2650. 570/437-4355.

605F Vermeer round baler, good cond, \$3500. 717-463-3938

NI 325NR corn picker, 12 roll bed, \$1,500. Kinze 6x30 no-till corn planter, HD semi-mount w/monitor, \$3,900. 717-653-5344.

Massey Harris pony restored, very nice, motor runs good but it smokes, \$2500. 215-350-1285

NH 269 baler w/PTO trthrower, \$575. High side wooden hay wagon \$775. 3pt AC corn planter \$185. 717-534-1253

Flotation tires & rim kits for manure trucks. Tires for manure spreaders. 660-429-4048.

Case 2290 coming out of repair shop w/new ring & pinion, power shift overhaul, only 4600 hrs, runs good, \$14,500. Zeisloff Eq. 800-919-3322.

Oliver Crawlers, Models HG, OC3, OC4 & OC6, Complete & Parts for Same. Also OC6 3pth. 9 0 8 - 8 5 0 - 1 5 6 5

JD 95B combine, 14' grain head, motor needs some work, \$1000. 570/759-1308.

JD 6R front mount cutoff w/new cylinders & hose, \$450. 814/736-9080.

JD 260 Loader w/8' Bucket; Case IH Bale Processor; 1970 Mack Grain Truck, 20' Bed, Exc; 120' Badger Feeder; JD 4R Stalker Corn Head, Wide Rows. Franklin Co., 717-597-7295

Zetor Zebra 2040, 4WD, 20hp diesel tractor, 35 hrs, like new. 570-455-7963

JD 84" gang mower to fit 755, 855, 955, \$500 obo. 717-859-3158

Dion 1016 forage wagon, right hand unload, tandem axle; NH 36' elevator, \$475. 717-530-0406.

AC G w/AC sickle bar mower, Woods 42' belly mower. All original, like new, \$5,000. LanCo, 717-336-1282 eves.

Killbros. & JM Gravity Bins. 400 bu. 2/wheel grain cart. 717-665-4743.

BELTING: We specialize in flat belting, cut to order, baler throwers, self-unloading wagons, long table blower belts. Franklin Co. 717-263-0573. NO Sunday calls.

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JD 2501 D NF 500 Hrs on Motor 8000 Vicon 3pt Disc Mower 2500 717-545-4194

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Kernel processor \$6000, 13' grass head \$5000, twin grass auger \$1500. Fit all JD 5000 series harvesters. All completely reconditioned. Also JD 5820, burned unit, brand new knives, good cutter head, final drives, eng. block, etc, \$3000. Watertown, NY 315/583-5867 lv.msgr.

NH LX885 skid loader, 800 hrs., \$18,500. 610-273-2557.

USED TRACTOR PARTS, also rebuilt clutches and torques. We ship UPS. Hill-T Farm Inc., 4295 Richmond Palestine Rd, New Madison, OH 45346. 937-548-0718.

New Idea 5209 Discbine \$3000 717-249-7612

Loader, Farmhand 22, exc cond, fits many tractors, \$3250. Brillion 10' alfalfa seeder, \$1500. 717-862-3253.

BOOM MOWERS - 4 each Landpride RCP2560, 12' reach, 5' deck, 3 are new. 301-662-1127 8AM-5PM

FORKLIFTS: Direct wholesale liquidation. Must sell. Many makes. For pictures & listing visit. www.bestbuyforklifts.com

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NH 492 haybine \$4,500; NH 315 baler \$4,100; NH 258 rake \$2,500; all in excellent cond. 200 gallon sprayer \$150; 3500 bu., grain bin U-remove \$500; 16 ft. kicker wagon \$900 (570)275-8786.

Case 420BH loader w/backhoe, not run for 6 years, has anti-freeze in it but motor won't turn, \$1200. 215-350-1285

NH 278 baler w/kicker, good condition, \$3500 OBO. 717-642-8950.

Vermeer R-23 Twin Folding Hydraulic Drive Hay-Rake, Same as JD 700. V.G. Cond. 540-885-6297

NI Uni system, 702, heavy duty axles w/4R corn head. 570-648-8051

Bobcat 7753 Skid Loader 580 Hrs, Good Cond., \$13,900 814-358-2217

NH 158 hay tedder, good condition, \$975. York Co. 717-757-7177.

MF 236 Front End Loader Almost New. \$3,000. 610-933-0991

Honda Engine, good running condition. 7 1 7 - 7 6 8 - 7 0 0 5

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