

Farmers To Descend On Nation's Capitol To Add Their 'Two Cents' Worth

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In an appeal for Congress to make long overdue changes to farm policy, Farmers Union members will be offering their "two cents worth" in response to the failed Freedom to Farm legislation during the Sept. 10-13 legislative fly-in.

During their visit, family farmers and ranchers will meet with Congressional representatives to deliver their "Two Cents Worth" message along with bags containing commodities produced on America's farms.

"Just as time is running out on this Congress, it is also running out for family farmers and ranchers," said National Farmers Union (NFU) President Leland Swenson. "Before our representatives in Washington adjourn the legislative session, this citizens lobby intends to not only make them aware of the crises

impacting family farmers and ranchers, but also (to) urge immediate action on some solutions to the rural challenge."

Farmers Union has spent the past month reaching out to policymakers with their Two Cents Worth Campaign to draw attention to the core agricultural issues faced today in rural America.

The rural citizens lobby fly-in will continue the call for Congress to pass legislation that will raise loan rates for commodities, increase dairy support prices, prohibit packer ownership of livestock, and promote competitive markets.

In addition, participants will tell lawmakers that Freedom to Farm lacks an adequate safety net to support farmers during sharp downturns in prices. Participants will also push for tools to manage large supplies that

have driven down prices, such as a farmer-owned renewable fuel and humanitarian grain reserves and a short-term conservation reserve program.

"Soon, members of Congress will return home to face their

constituents in the time-honored, democratic tradition at the ballot box," said Swenson. "This year, they can do so with the knowledge that 'rural votes count' and rural residents are looking for leadership to make rural America

more prosperous."

Fly-in activities will also include a briefing with Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman and his top deputies on Monday, Sept. 11.

USDA Wants Drug-Tainted Cows Destroyed

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USDA is preparing to stop packers from selling any meat from carcasses in which excessive chemical residue is found.

Under current rules, packers can throw out the part of an animal that is tested for drug residue, typically the liver or kidney, and sell the rest.

The new policy, which could be made final as early as next month, would require that the entire carcass be

destroyed.

Agriculture Department officials said the policy would apply to all livestock, but it would primarily affect slaughtered dairy cows, the source of about 40 percent of the nation's hamburger meat.

USDA officials say the intent is to bring their procedures into line with the Food and Drug Ad-

ministration's policy on chemical residues in food. FDA sets the limits, or tolerances, for drug residues in food animals.

About 0.2 percent of the cattle tested in 1997 had drug residues in excess of FDA limits, or 12,400 of the 6.2 million cattle slaughtered that year. Animals are tested for more than 50 different compounds.



Judge Steve Wood of Littlestown, Adams County; John Burket of Burket Falls Farm in East Freedom with five-year-old supreme champion dairy cow "Maria," Aaron Gable of the Snider Homestead in New Enterprise RD with his four-year-old reserve supreme champion "Altann," and Blair County dairy princess Diana Bigelow of Williamsburg. (Photo by Amy Snyder.)

Burket Supreme Champion At Martinsburg

LINDA WILLIAMS
Bedford Co. Correspondent
MARTINSBURG (Blair Co.)
— The Open Class Holstein Show at the Martinsburg Dairy Show culminated in a five-year-old Holstein named "Maria" and owned by John Burket of Burket Falls Farm in East Freedom being named the supreme champion.

Aaron Gable of the Snider Homestead in New Enterprise showed the reserve supreme champion, a four-year-old named "Altann."

Other Holstein winners were as follows:

Junior calves: Amanda Cessna (top three places).
Intermediate calves: Amanda Cessna, Burket Falls Farm, Ross Black.
Senior calves: Paul Fredrick, Joshua Smith, Meagan Bert.
Summer yearlings: Curryview Farm, Mark Fredrick, Charann Foster.
Junior yearlings: Desire Hillegass, Cessna Brothers, Sue Betts Farm.
Intermediate yearlings: Ronnie Morse, Erin Shaw, Scott Fisher.
Senior yearlings: Amanda Cessna, Tyler Cogan, Doreen Delp.
Junior champion: Fall yearling, Amanda Cessna.
Reserve junior champion: Spring calf, Amanda Cessna.
Junior best three females: Amanda

Cessna, Globe-run, Sue Betts Farm.
Four-year-old and under dry cows: Cessna Brothers, Rodney Metzler.
Five-year-old and over dry cows: Keith Fisher, Amanda Stanton, Cessna Brothers.
Junior two-year-olds: Jared Hillegass, Eric Fredrick, Erin Shaw.
Senior two-year-olds: Amanda Cessna, Joshua Smith, Cessna Brothers.
Junior three-year-olds: Eric Fredrick, Ronnie Morse, Joshua Smith.
Senior three-year-olds: Sue Betts Farm, Burket Falls Farm, Samantha Foster.
Four-year-olds: Charann Foster, Ern Shaw, Ernest Bert Jr.
Five-year-olds: Burket Falls Farm, John Foster II, Russell Wyles.
Aged cows, Six-years and older, Scott Fisher, Sue Betts Farm, Ronnie Morse.
125,000 Class: Sue Betts Farm, Samantha Foster, Sue Betts Farm.
Senior champion five-year-old: Burket Falls Farm.
Reserve senior champion: Senior three-year-old Sue Betts Farm.
Grand champion five-year-old: Burket Falls Farm.
Reserve grand champion: Senior three-year-old, Sue Betts Farm.
Senior best three females: Globe Run, Cessna Brothers, Sue Betts Farm.
Breeder's herd: Sue Betts Farm, Globe Run, Five Forks.
Produce of dam: Amanda Cessna, Globe Run, Cessna Brothers.
Daughter/dam: Amanda Cessna, Burket Falls, Joshua Smith.
Supreme champion: Burket Falls.
Reserve supreme champion: Aagon Gable, with a Gable.
Premier breeder and premier exhibitor was Sue Betts Farm.

Average Farm Feed Costs for Handy Reference

To help farmers across the state to have handy reference of commodity input costs in their feeding operations for DHIA record sheets or to develop livestock feed cost data, here's last week's average costs of various ingredients as compiled from regional reports across the state of Pennsylvania.

Remember, these are averages, so you will need to adjust your figures up or down according to your location and the quality of your crop.

Corn, No.2y — 2.10 bu., 3.76 cwt.
Wheat, No.2 — 1.94 bu., 3.24 cwt.
Barley, No.3 — 1.35 bu., 2.88 cwt.
Oats, No.2 — 1.25 bu., 3.91 cwt.
Soybeans, No.1 — 4.18 bu., 6.98 cwt.
Ear Corn — 68.37 ton, 3.42 cwt.
Alfalfa Hay — 115.50 ton, 5.78 cwt.
Mixed Hay — 96.25 ton, 4.81 cwt.
Timothy Hay — 100.00 ton, 5.0 cwt.

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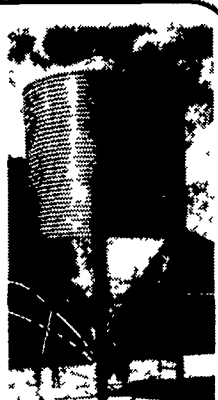
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