

Dairy Producer Testifies Before Congress Subcommittee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Challenging times call for cooperative efforts, said Gordon Hoover, Land O'Lakes Dairy Committee chairperson, to members of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Agriculture's Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry at a public hearing in Washington, D.C.

Hoover was invited to testify at the hearing, addressing the state of the nation's dairy industry on behalf of dairy farmers in the Northeast.

"Eighteen months ago, the price I received for my milk dropped 34 percent, and it has stayed there ever since. Right now, the milk price isn't even covering our costs," said Hoover, who milks 120 cows in Gap. "With conditions as drastic as they are, it's now more important than ever that producers work with other producers, through industry organizations, within our cooperatives like Land O'Lakes,

and with government officials to increase dairy farmer profitability."

Hoover commended the federal government on programs such as the Dairy Price Support Program, the Dairy Checkoff Program, and the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP). "Programs like these are working to benefit producers, and we need you to give them your continued support," he said. "We also need you to keep the farmer's best interest in mind when developing legislation that affects dairy trade obligations, environmental restrictions and income subsidies."

Urging passage of H.R. 1160, which would establish new tariffs on Milk Protein Concentrate imports, Hoover said this legislation is an important part of the industry's three-prong strategy to address MPC. "I congratulate the 100-plus U.S. representatives who have agreed to sponsor this bill, and I encourage more of you to do so."

Voicing reservations regarding a proposed free trade agreement with Australia, Hoover cautioned that this type of agreement would be a one-way street for dairy. "Instead, I encourage the administration to focus its efforts on negotiating a comprehensive, multi-lateral agreement in the WTO," he said. "In that forum, dairy farmers have a reasonable hope of gaining new markets."

Hoover commented that producers are taking more responsibility in shaping their future through programs such as the industry-led, farmer-funded, self-help program, "Cooperatives Working Together" or CWT, proposed by National Milk Producers Federation. However, he told those at the hearing, "our industry still needs your help and support."

"Our goal as dairy farmers, and as an industry, is to create a marketplace where supply and demand work together to generate reasonable and realistic

profits for producers, without substantial dependence on government subsidies," he said.

"Anything you can do to help us build and sustain that marketplace is greatly appreciated."

NRCS Accepts Applications For EQIP Funds

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for FY03 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) participation until Thursday, May 29.

Applications for cost-share funding to install conservation practices for the treatment of resource concerns involving livestock/poultry issues, grazing, and cropland erosion across the state are accepted on a continual basis.

Funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) as part of the 2003 Farm Bill, funding will be available through multiple county "pooling" areas, which

will rank applications based on criteria that include national, state, and local priorities. Applications have been accepted at NRCS field offices throughout the state since the Farm Bill was signed.

Pennsylvania received approximately \$6.9 million dollars to be used for cost-share assistance. Each of the 20 pool areas will receive a base allocation of \$200,000 with additional dollars based on their state percentage of cropland and livestock. Ranking criteria and other program information will be available on the NRCS Website at <http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov> within a few days.

Soil Assessment Workshop June 10

LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J. — Good farming starts with good soil, and two Mercer County farms with an unusual collection of soil types and conditions will be the center of attention June 10 as the summer education season gets under way.

Cherry Grove Farm and Cherry Grove Organic Farm will co-host "Get Your Hands Dirty: Evaluating Soil Health," Wednesday, June 10, at the twin farms, located on Rt. 206 in Lawrenceville, N.J. The event begins with an informal brown-bag dinner hour at 5 p.m., with workshop activities starting at 6 p.m. (Because of the nature of the activities planned, the event will be postponed until June 11 in the event of rain.)

The evening twilight meeting will feature one-on-one soil test consultations and tours of Cherry Grove Farm, a grass-based livestock farm, and Cherry Grove Organic Farm, a certified organic vegetable farm. Interactive activities will include real-world application of soil maps, reading the landscape for soil information, using soil pits and soil profiles, and a collectino of low-tech, low-cost farmer-run assessments of soil chemis-


try and physical properties.


Course presenters include Joe Heckman, soil specialist at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station; Dan Kluchinski, Mercer County agricultural agent; and Chris Smith, soil specialist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The free event is sponsored by

the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey and is open to any farmer. Because of the hands-on nature of the event, registration is limited. For more information or to register, call NOFA-NJ at (609) 737-6848 or visit the NOFA-NJ Website at www.nofan.org and click on "Farmer Events."

Our Dairy Plus Special Technology issue on June 28 focuses on ways producers can use the latest technology to aid them in improving efficiency and expanding the bottom line. Included are reports on a freestall sand separator, robotic milking, and other new items. Also included are a stray voltage update, veterinary reports, cooperative and dairy business news, and a calendar of events.







Let Your Crops Dine On Alpine
The Company That Offers You High Quality Plant Food At Competitive Prices Dealer Inquiries Welcome

Talk To Us About Seed Banded Plant Food And Foliar Feeding Place Phosphorus Where It Does Most Good (Seed Banded)

6-24-6 9-18-9 3-18-18 5-15-15
Check Early Order & Quantity Price

Zimmerman Lime & Fertilizer, Inc.
235 W. Burkholder Dr. (717) 733-7674 Lititz, PA 17543
Dealer of Raven Liquid Storage Tanks





STEIN-WAY Barn Equipment

- Free Stalls
- Sand Traps™
- Self-locks
- Waterers
- Gates - Bale Boss Hay Savers

THE DURABLE, ECONOMICAL, CONVENIENT WAY TO HANDLE LIVESTOCK

Call: **Joe Speicher**

175 North Imler Valley Rd., Imler, PA 16655
(814) 276-3304
1-888-605-2422

Auto Release Self Locks

PMMB Hearings Set

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB) has scheduled public hearings to receive testimony and exhibits concerning cost replacement in Milk Marketing Areas 4 and 6.

Both meetings are set for July 2 in Room 202 of the Agriculture Building in Harrisburg. The hearings for Milk Marketing Areas 4 and 6 will begin at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., respectively.

For more information, contact the PMMB at (717) 787-4194 or visit their Website at <http://www.mmb.state.pa.us>.

3RD ANNUAL Sustainable Hog Farming Summit

June 6-7, 2003


Eisenhower Inn & Conference Center
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

More information & registration:
www.waterkeeper.org or call 914.674-0622 x204



Co-sponsored by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, the White Dog Café Foundation, PASA, PennFuture, Animal Welfare Institute, and GRACE.

Your Source For Galvanized Pipe & Tubing




Heavy-Wall Pipe for Posts


Round or Square Tubing for Fencing

Choose Square Tubing for higher strength:weight ratio

Multiple Sizes IN STOCK
From 1" o.d. to 5 1/2" o.d.



galvanized steel tubing
*Gatorshield® is a registered trademark of Allied Tube & Conduit Co



255 Holtzman Road
Reinholds, PA 17569
717-484-2233

Make Your Fencing Last! Choose Galvanized.