

Coming Wednesday
PUMPKIN SHOW TIME
Circleville gets ready



METRO

STATE ISSUE 2

Sides clash over livestock rules

By Alan Johnson
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Supporters and opponents of state Issue 2 clashed last night about whether the livestock-standards proposal is a "constitutional grab" by powerful agribusiness interests or much-needed protection for Ohio's farms and food supply.

Both sides of the issue that Ohioans will see on the Nov. 3 ballot got a full airing during a two-hour debate at Independence Hall on the Ohio State University campus. The event was sponsored by the Ohio Liberty Council, a coalition of on- and off-campus organizations.

Two Ohio Farm Bureau Federation officials were the strongest supporters.

Keith Stimpert, senior vice president of public policy, said the issue is necessary to fend off "out-of-state activist groups," specifically the Humane Society of the United

States, which he said supports reforms for livestock and poultry care without regard to the impact on Ohio's \$93 billion-a-year farming business.

Leah Dorman, a veterinarian and director of food programs for the Farm Bureau, raised the specter of suspect foreign foods filling the gap if "animal-rights activists" have their way.

If food can't be produced in Ohio, it will come from elsewhere. "That may be Indiana or Michigan. That may be China or Mexico," Dorman said.

Opposing the issue was Natalie Kee of the Ohio Act Coalition, made up of environmental and other groups who think Issue 2 is a bad idea to permanently enshrine in the Ohio Constitution.

Kee said the issue, if approved, would be "a blank check to put corporate prof-

See **ISSUE 2** Page B2.

Hilltop man sees how others care

Businesses give disabled resident a parking pad

grass, not a paved parking surface as required by city code.

But the decision ate at Commissioner Steve Her-miller, a civil engineer.

Another Ohio inmate's execution postponed

CINCINNATI (AP) — A federal judge yesterday granted a stay of execution to another Ohio inmate as state officials and defense attorneys continue to examine the state's lethal-injection method following a botched attempt last month.

Kenneth Biros, 51, was scheduled to die on Dec. 8. He was convicted in 1991 of murder and attempted rape.

Judge Gregory Frost indefinitely delayed his execution. The judge also indefinitely delayed the second

effort to execute Romell Broom, whose botched attempt prompted the review.

Gov. Ted Strickland this month postponed the executions of two other men who were scheduled to die before Biros, Lawrence R. Reynolds Jr. and Darryl Durr, until the spring. The state is considering ways to adjust its death-chamber procedure after technicians couldn't locate suitable veins on Broom through which to administer lethal drugs.

ISSUE 2

FROM PAGE B1

its before public safety."

Maurice A. Thompson, an attorney from the Buckeye Institute, a conservative research group, questioned the feel-good language of Issue 2 supporters who say it would preserve a safe and plentiful food supply for Ohioans.

"When someone says it's for public health and safety, hold on to your wallets," Thompson said.

Issue 2 would set up the 13-member Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board. The governor and legislative leaders would appoint members, including family farmers, veterinarians, a food-safety expert, a local Humane Society representative, members of statewide farm organizations, the dean of an Ohio agriculture college and two consumers. The state agriculture director would lead the panel.

The debate boiled down to questions about the need to create a powerful board and whether it's a good idea to build such a board into the Ohio Constitution, which is normally reserved for more-weighty matters.

The issue bounced to the ballot after the national Humane Society pushed agribusiness leaders to support "confinement" reforms that would allow permit farm animals and poultry to lie down, turn around and extend their limbs. Fearful that the society would mount a statewide campaign like those in California and other states, agribusiness interests asked lawmakers to put the issue on the fall ballot.

The new board would have far-reaching powers — and minimal oversight — to set standards for livestock and poultry care, food safety, supply and availability, disease prevention, farm management and animal well-being.

Stimpert acknowledged that it would cost "several hundred thousands dollars" to operate the board, including salaries for a director and small staff, plus regulatory expenses.

Several people questioned the idea of creating a new agency when the state is bleeding red ink.

"Isn't there enough government now?" one asked. "I just see it as more bureaucracy. I don't look for government to look out for the small guy."
ajohnson@dispatch.com

bowl of soulless," he said.
Poppe will council's action
"This is a cap for CSB lumbus," said chairwoman community She City Cour

House

LEBANON
Authorities are the cause of house fire yet killed three people
No details

HIL

FROM

on Mr. Buck's miller said. "I founded and two. He thought cared."

Yesterday, 1 completed.

Since a heart in 2001, Buck hip, knee and lems that require chair when he more than a si

He owned d and real-estate before the crash health problem to retire. Now, his monthly Social check for income

He tried to r parking problem own. He could rectly in front of

WINDOW
10^S 249
for INSTALL
RESIDENT
COMMERCIAL
THERMAL
CUSTOMER
WITH LOW E
& BRIGHT
GAS & IR
WELDING
SCREEN
THE TIME WAITING
"Ask for D. THE
SENIOR DISCOUNT UP TO 10%
NORMAL WOOD DROP
DOUBLE HUNG
OUR 43rd YEAR
BONDED C
FAMILY OWNED