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American Agriculture Not Political

—Sec. Benson

By ERNEST J. NEILL

'American agriculture' is neither Republican or Democrat; farm people must not be thought of as a group who can be put on the political auction block," Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson told some 5,000 farmers and farm people in an address before the Pennsylvania State Poultry Federation in the 3rd annual Poultry Festival during Pennsylvania Dutch Days at Hershey Saturday.

Six major points were brought out by the secretary in his appearance; 1, Pennsylvania Dutch are known as "good farmers", there is no higher title (good farmer) that one farmer can bestow on another; 2, he reviewed progress in production and efficiency in the poultry industry. Today's poultry industry is a product of science, 3, poultrymen were commended for rejecting the siren-song of price supports, and basic crops under rigid price supports tight up to the harvests of last fall, are now in more serious difficulties than are the crops and livestock that have not been price supported;

4, Agriculture is not political, however, the Secretary said he is not at all unhappy that some people are choosing to make agricultural problems an issue of the campaign. If price supports are to be increased, extended to other crops and livestock, as again is being proposed, farmers will be subject to more controls; 5, our most critical farm problems are rooted in accumulated surpluses, 6, the agricultural objective of this administration is a sound, prosperous, expanding and free agriculture.

Some of the Secretary's most pertinent points came out in remarks added beyond the printed speech delivered to newsmen prior to the address. In fact, these extensions lengthened his address almost 15 minutes.

The unceasing quest for improvement explains the inventiveness and experimentation through which our farming has changed so rapidly. "People who are through changing are through," the Secretary asserted.

Since World War I, egg production per hen has considerably more than doubled. The quantity of eggs produced from a ton of feed is up about 35 per cent egg production per hour of labor on laying flocks has tripled," he told, adding, "I think we owe a debt to American people to our American farmers. None are more efficient."

Most of the progress made in farming in the past has been due to the fact that farmers have been free to make their own management decisions. Certainly this essential freedom will be no less important in the future. It is our purpose to keep this agricultural

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Tobacco Harvesting Time



Lancaster County farmers at the moment are knee-deep in the 1956 tobacco harvest, now that weather has moderated. Here is a view on Lloyd W. Nolt's Ponds Farm, R1 Lancaster, showing the har-

vest in full swing. From left to right are Roy Eppley, Mr. Myer, Farm Manager Monroe Fahnestock, Mr. Myer's son, and on the tractor, Barry Eppley.

Soil Bank Can Aid County by Higher Prices

By ERNEST J. NEILL
Editor-Lancaster Farming

Farmers — even those who cannot take acres out of production — will benefit through the Administration's Soil Bank program through increased prices for farm commodities, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson told a news conference at Hershey Saturday evening.

Mr. Benson, who addressed the Poultry Federation of Pennsylvania later, answered a query posed by Lancaster Farming, since Lancaster County farms, being of small average size, cannot economically take acres out of production.

"We have insisted this program be voluntary. We resisted attempts to make the program compulsory. The farmer will benefit in or out of the program—at the market place. Prices have already responded," the Secretary continued, "and are now about 10 per cent above a year ago, due in part to the Soil Bank."

Mr. Benson was free and direct with his answers. Questioned about the problem of homogenized tobacco leaf, where scraps are bound with plastic, the Secretary said the program is under study by the USDA, but no tax program to differentiate the actual and the homogenized leaf in the markets has been considered.

"I've been through this country before, and I always like it," Mr. Benson told of Pennsylvania.

Explaining the Soil-Bank further, he told newsmen:

"The overall purpose of the Soil Bank is to end surpluses on basic commodities. It's a temporary, emergency program (Continued on page 6)

Pennsylvania Livestock Show Nov. 12-16, 1957

HARRISBURG — The first Pennsylvania Livestock Exposition will be held in the State Farm Show building and arena here Nov. 12-16 of next year, State Secretary of Agriculture William L. Henning announced today.

Plans are underway to bring a well known western rodeo for the event which is expected to attract up to 100,000 people, he said.

The five-day livestock exposition is to be open to exhibitors of beef cattle, sheep and swine from any state and foreign country, giving it an international status, Dr. Henning explained. More than 2,000 head of livestock can be accommodated in the Farm Show Building, he added.

The gigantic 1957 livestock exposition was made possible through a special State appropriation of \$50,000 allocated by the 1955 State Legislature. It will be planned and operated through an executive committee of representatives of the Pennsylvania Livestock and Allied Industries Association, the State Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania State University.

In signing the appropriation measure Governor George M. Leader said: "This is one more good use for the Farm Show

Deadline on Angus Show Window Auction October 1

Deadline for entries to the International "Show Window" Sale of Aberdeen-Angus cattle is October 1, 1956, announces Frank Richards, secretary of the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association, St. Joseph, Missouri. This sale, sponsored by the national association, has been an annual event during the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago. It will be held at 7:00 p. m. on Monday, November 26, 1956.

Arena and livestock barns and will bring national recognition to Pennsylvania."

Chairman of the committee is Leon Falk, Jr., of Pittsburgh and Falkland Farms, Schellsburg, Bedford County. State Deputy Secretary of Agriculture L. H. Bull is secretary and N. L. Claiborne, Pittsburgh stockyards, treasurer. The committee to meet each month with chairmen of various sub-committees.

Now 14 months away, the Pennsylvania Livestock Exposition will include the 1957 National Polled Hereford Show which alone will bring 400 head of prize beef cattle for the event, according to Falk.

Dr. Henning said the Nov. 12-16, 1957 dates fall immediately after the annual National Standardbred Horse Sale scheduled for Nov. 4-8, 1957 and the Pennsylvania National Horse Show during the week of Oct. 19-26, 1957.

If plans for the twice-a-day rodeo materialize it will be the same organization of champion riders that appears at Madison Square Garden, New York, and the Boston Gardens, it was said.

Exhibitors of cattle at the Chicago sale pay an entry fee of \$25 per head with the top 10 bulls and 40 females selling as the "Show Window" offering of the breed. Entries to the sale are also entered in the Exposition. These cattle have come from the United States and Canada.



For the second year in a row, Lebanon County captured the Queen's honors for the state, when Mrs. Ezra Tatt Benson wife of the U. S. secretary of agriculture, crowned Miss Elizabeth Erb of Mount Zion. Miss Erb, also State Honey Bee Queen, is shown here with Mrs. Benson, and Miss Lorraine Eshelman, Lebanon, retiring queen. With red hair, and brown eyes, Miss Erb plans to study nursing, and has received a \$150 scholarship toward that goal. She is a granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Seth Erb, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ephriam Erb. She was crowned Saturday night at the Pennsylvania Poultry Festival during Dutch Days at Hershey. (Lancaster Farming Staff Photo).