

# Lancaster Farming

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\$2 Per Year

## Proposed Swine Producers Assn. Meeting Planned

Views on the organization of a swine breeders association will be aired Monday night at a committee meeting at the Farm Bureau Cooperative, Dillerville Road, Lancaster.

Attending the meeting will be a 12 man committee appointed to investigate the possibility of organizing an association.

County Agent Max M. Smith says that with the hog population of our county leading the state, and since we have a large number of farms either breeding or feeding hogs, I sincerely hope there will be a constructive program for such an organization to represent the industry on all levels.

Smith gave as reasons for such an association:

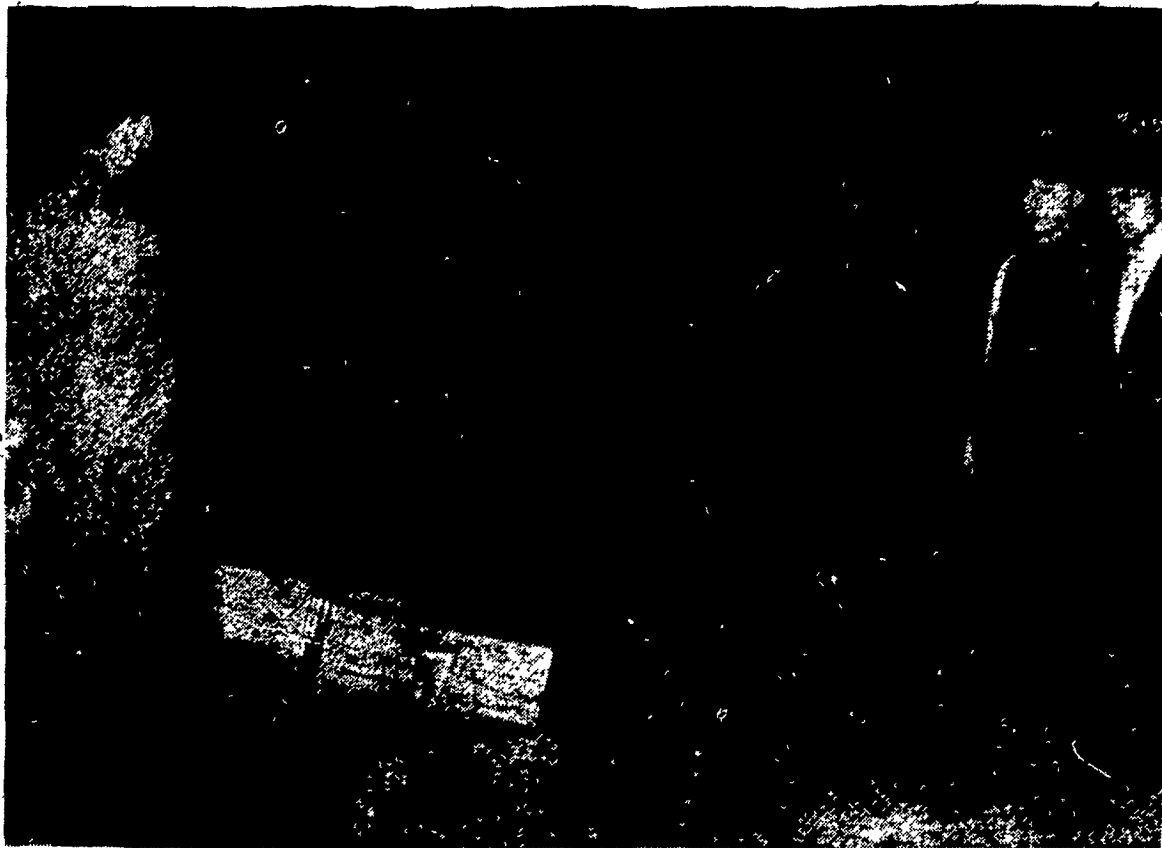
**One:** To represent the industry to the public, swine organizations, and other agencies interested in pork production.

**Two:** Sponsor shows and sales of feeder pigs, breeding stock and barrows.

**Three:** Education of both the producers and public. Such an organization through shows of local stock could contribute greatly to understanding of what types of swine are desired by breeders and packers.

Named to the committee are: Arlie Anderson, Masonic Homes Farms, Elizabethtown; Levi H. Brubaker, Rohrerstown; George Cogley, R1 Ronks; Earl Fisher, Stauffer Homestead Farms, R1 East Earl.

Aaron Glick, R4 Lancaster; Claude Hart, R1 Quarryville; John Hastings, Kirkwood; C. Warren Leininger, R2 Denver; J. Lloyd Rohrer, R7 Lancaster; Howard Siglin, vocational agriculture instructor, Millersville; Kenneth Skiles, R2 Narvan; and Abram H. Weidman, R1 Manheim.



**DRYING HAY IN THE BARN** instead of in the field will increase the feed value, lower cost of producing forage and increase meat and milk production, according to Joe McCurdy, Penn State agricultural engineer, who conducted two hay

meetings Monday. A total of 88 county farmers attended the meetings. McCurdy said that 10 tons of water must be removed from hay after it is in the barn, thus causing need for large fans and good management. (LF Photo)

## 88 County Farmers Hear Virtues, Drawbacks Of Forced Air Barn Drying Haymaking Systems

Eighty-eight County farmers spent a chilly half day Tuesday attending two quality hay meetings sponsored by the extension service.

The morning meeting was at the Robert Kauffman farm near Landisville. The afternoon session was at the Donald S. Eby farm, R1 Gordonville.

Most of the discussion presented by Joe McCurdy, extension agricultural engineer from Penn

State, concerned barn drying by use of unheated air.

Also discussed were various methods of dry hay by use of heated air.

McCurdy said that longtime weather records in Lancaster County show that 12 days of rain can be expected in June. This means a day of rain about every second or third day.

Having hay wet once will cause half the leaves to drop, according to tests made at Beltsville, Md., by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Under the air drying systems, McCurdy said, the hay should come into the barn when it has about a 40 per cent moisture content.

When asked how this moisture content could be determined, he said that when you could twist the stems and not get any juice, it was about right. Another way, he said, was when the baler is not pushing out any leaves, but is not having any trouble pushing out the bales.

McCurdy and Kauffman both recommend the making of short bales when the hay is to be barn dried.

Kauffman said that last year, the bales were made much shorter than usual. These bales presented no problem in handling. But, he said, when the baler would skip a tie and kick out a long bale, the resulting shrinkage would loosen the tie so that the bale had to be handled very carefully.

The use of a crusher to speed the curing of the hay is also recommended. McCurdy said that no tests have been run, to his knowledge, on the effectiveness or desirability of the pressure roller type as compared to the corrugated type. Both are good, he said.

The actual barn drying installation was easy to make, according to Kauffman. The long duct was made of rough sawed lumber cov-

ered with heavy wire. It took only a days time to build.

Cost of the structure, including fan was about \$1,200. However, nearly a thousand dollars of the expense was for the 7.5 horsepower motor and 42 inch fan installation, including wiring.

Kauffman said that the barn floor has to be repewed before the installation could be made. For the air to rise through the bales effectively, the floor must be nearly air tight. He said that if the floor had been merely open, heavy paper or masonite could have been laid down to make the floor tight.

Heat drying is gaining in popularity and several farm equipment companies are coming out with new and better means of drying,

## State Price Index Down 14 Points Since December

HARRISBURG — The State Department of Agriculture Monday reported that usual seasonal decline in prices received by farmers of Pennsylvania for milk at wholesale, coupled with a sharp drop in calf prices, more than offset the slight advance in prices of other meat animals, causing the index of prices to drop six points during the month ended March 15.

A five-point drop in the price index was reported for January. This was followed by a three-point decline in February, making a total drop of 14 points since mid-December. The Pennsylvania index now stands at 236 per cent of the 1910-14 base level.

The parity index, at 80 on March 15, was down two points from Feb. 15 and two points under a year previous.

The statewide average price received by dairy farmers for milk at wholesale was \$4.90 per hundred pounds (46½ quarts), down 15 cents from February but 50 cents higher than on March 15, 1956.

Farmers on March 15 were averaging \$20.30 a hundred pounds liveweight for calves, a drop of \$2 from Feb. 15 and \$1.16 above March of last year. The decline in calves was the leading cause for a drop of one point in the meat animal index. All other meat animals were up somewhat, with lambs making the greatest advance.

For the second consecutive month chickens showed a slight

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McCurdy said.

However, the chief drawbacks to heat drying are the cost and the fact that in most present installations, the hay must be handled twice. The extra handling raises the cost and slows the operations.

However, he said, if 200 tons of hay a year or more is to be handled, a pole type structure fitted with ducts can be built

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## Guernsey Breeders to Hold Tour Of Dairy Farm Operations Tuesday

The Lancaster County Guernsey Breeders' Assn. will hold their annual tour Tuesday.

The tour will leave from the Conestoga Traction Co. bus barn, 800 East Chestnut St., Lancaster, at 7.30 a.m. A special pick-up will be made at Penn Hill at 8 a.m.

To be visited on the tour is the Lloyd Balderston farm at Colora, Md. Here pipe line milking, bulk tank operations and nurse cow calf starting will be seen.

As the second stop on the tour, the Mt. Ararat Farm, Pt. Deposit, Md., will be visited. This will be the lunch stop. Mt. Ararat Farms will furnish free milk and coffee.

The third stop will be at a standard bred horse farm owned by George R. Norris at Forest

Hill, Md.

The 200 cow herd of John Worthington at Bel Air, Md. will be visited as the fourth stop.

The final stop will be at Peter Zeither Farm, Glass Glow, Del. Zeither has built a fine Guernsey herd using a grassland farming technique.

Robert McSparran, Samuel Groff, Robert Burkino and Francis Kirk are the tour committee.

McSparran has requested that anyone wishing to join the tour at Penn Hill contact him Monday so that room may be made available. Cost for the tour will be about \$3.

All persons taking the tour are advised to pack their own lunch.



**INSPECTING THE** construction of an air duct for a barn dryer in the Kauffman barn, these farmers find that it must be of rugged construction and of considerable size. The wire on the sides is not necessary if only baled hay is to be stored. However, the top should be covered so there will be no danger of a six foot drop while handling hay. (LF Photo)