

Farmers Borrow \$40.5 Million To Develop Soil, Water Resources

During the first three years of the Farmers Home Administration's soil and water conservation loan program, 11,430 farmers borrowed more than \$40.5 million to improve their soil and water resources, the U S Department of Agriculture said today.

Of the total amount loaned, nearly \$30 million was advanced by private lenders on an insured basis, according to Kermit H Hansen, the agency's administrator.

Loans to develop farmstead water supplies, irrigation systems soil conservation measures, and other land improvement practices including development of permanent pastures were first made on a nation-wide basis in October, 1954. Previously, only water-facility loans had been available and that type of credit was extended just in the 17 western States.

Approximately 7,230 loans

were made to individual farmers; 4,200 other farmers obtained the credit as members of 118 non-profit associations.

About 81 per cent of all loan funds were used for developing irrigation facilities on 600,000 acres. This included purchase of pumps, motors and piping drilling of wells, and construction and repair of irrigation ditches and laterals. Remainder of the funds were used to develop water systems for household use and farm livestock, and for such soil conservation measures as terracing pastures improvement, drainage, brush removal, and planting trees.

Repayments up to June 30, 1957 totaled about \$7,960,000 in principal, interest and insurance charges. Repayment schedules depended upon the purposes for which the funds were advanced and the estimated income of the applicants. The maximum repayment period for a loan is 20 years to individuals and 40 years for associations. Individuals may borrow up to \$25,000 and the ceiling on association loans is \$250,000.

The Farmers Home Administration loans up to a total of \$25 million each fiscal year. In addition, Congress has appropriated \$5.5 million for direct loans for fiscal 1958.

Private lenders who invest in insured loans receive a return of 3½ per cent and the borrower pays 1 per cent to the Government for insurance and administrative costs. Loans made from appropriated funds carry an interest charge of 4½ per cent.

Applications for all loans are made at the local county offices of the Farmers Home Administration.

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HOLDING TROPHIES PRESENTED them at the County Dairy Club Roundup are, left to right, Miss Linda Mumma, Tom Halladay Jr., Sandra Rufft and Carol

Schantz. They were tops in overall points in the Guernsey, Jersey, Holstein and Ayrshire breeds respectively. (LF Photo)

Girls Win Bulk of 4-H Dairy Club Honors Awarded at Banquet

Tom Halladay Jr., R1 Kirkwood, was the only boy to have top score in his 4-H breed club as awards were presented at the annual 4-H Dairy Club Banquet Oct 18 at Strasburg.

The three girls were Linda Mumma, Landisville, Guernsey; Sandra Rufft, Stevens, Holstein; and Carol Krantz, Ayrshire.

Others picket out for single honors were Barbara Keener, County champion fitter, and Dale Shirk, County champion showman.

Reserves in the fitting and showing contests were Glenn Bushong and Linda Mumma.

Miss Keener and Shirk were presented cash awards by the North Lancaster Kiwanis Club.

By clubs, the other showing and fitting winners were.

Holstein—fitting, Barbara Keener; showing, Dale Shirk.

Guernsey — showing, Linda Mumma, fitting, Glenn Bushong.

Ayrshire—fitting, Carol Krantz; showing, Marilyn Harmish.

Jersey—fitting, Tom Halladay, showing, J Paul Herr.

The Lancaster County Ayrshire Assn presented a halter to Marilyn Harmish for her work this year.

The Guernsey Association presented a plaque to Miss Reba Bushong, owner of the grand

champion animal at the county round-up, and cash awards to Mary Ellen Mumma, Glenn Bushong, Robert Mumma, Reba Bushong, and Janet Hastings.

The County Holstein Assn gave cash awards to Barbara Keener, Paul Trimble, Elvin Shelly, Donald Welk, Richard Shely, Phyllis Rutt, Gloria Shelly and George Rutt.

It was announced that the Dairy Club food stand had netted \$147 which will be divided among the various breed clubs.

The Lancaster County Bankers Assn presented gifts of mechanical pencils and stationery to the Dairy Club members. Three year pins were also presented.

Master of ceremonies was Donald Welk, dairy club president.



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Fourth Mobile Lab Added For Ring Tests

HARRISBURG — A fourth mobile laboratory has been added to the State Department of Agriculture fleet to help in the control of livestock diseases on Pennsylvania farms.

Dr. Howard A. Milo, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry, today said the new laboratory will be used by technicians who will apply "milk ring" tests to composite samples of milk taken from each herd in a statewide campaign against bovine brucellosis (Bang's disease).

The new addition has necessitated the redivision of mobile unit working areas assigned by the Bureau, Dr. Milo said. He pointed out that herds in each of the four regions of Pennsylvania will be tested periodically to keep Bang's infection under control. Under the milk ring test, herd owners submit milk samples every six months.

Dr. Milo commended technicians who have worked from the trailer laboratories since December 1953 when the first traveling unit was placed in operation. He said if technicians suspect the presence of brucellosis, a veterinarian is contacted to take blood samples from each animal in the suspected herd. Samples are tested at Summerdale, Cumberland County, in the Bureau's animal disease laboratory.

Each of the four mobile laboratories will be supervised by Bureau veterinarians in the Department of Agriculture.

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