

## Producers Co-op Reports First Loss In 27 Years

Producers Cooperative Exchange, Coatesville reported to its members on Tuesday that the organization operated at a loss this year for the first time in its 27-year history.

Net loss for the 1959 fiscal year ending September 30 was \$21,356.07, according to officials of the cooperative reporting at the annual membership meeting at the Guernsey Sales Pavilion.

Working capital of the organization decreased by a total of \$202,493.58 to a present total of \$52,500.28.

Reasons for the deficit include additions to the plant and facilities, and for new equipment, and a reported loss of \$22,339.30 on the broiler growing program. This program has since been discontinued, according to John Melhorn, president.

Energy of the exchange into the broiler growing contract with Eastern States Farmers Cooperative caused considerable controversy at the annual meeting last year. Purpose of the program was to supply a steady flow of birds to the processors. Melhorn reported that Producers Cooperative absorbed the operating cost loss and Eastern States the grow-

ing losses. J. Collins McSparran, Master of the Pennsylvania State Grange, as featured speaker of the evening called on cooperative members to support congressmen in an attempt to get a fair share of prices for the farmer. He said farmers should be allowed to set prices for their commodities in the same way manufacturers set the price of goods they market. As it is farmers must accept the prices ordered on the market.

McSparran, a former director of the exchange said that government should allow agriculture to operate under the same rules that labor and industry operate under. He pointed out that rising labor and material costs have forced the farmer to have to pay higher prices for the machinery he buys. He went on to liken the nation's economy to a three-legged stool with Agriculture, Labor and Industry representing the three legs. Take away any one of the legs and the stool falls.

Elected to directorship for the coming year were William G. Carlin, Coatesville R4 and Melvin R. Stoltzfus, Ronks R1. Retiring board members are Paul L. Coates, Coatesville R3, a director for 27 years, and Marlin H. Seitz, Dillsburg R3. John H. Herr, Lancaster R7 was re-elected to another three-year term on the board.

## Farm Women 15 Plan Xmas Party

Farm Women's Society number 15 met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herve Ferguson on November 19 with the president Mrs. Wilcy Howett presiding. Devotions were in charge of the hostesses. Each member was requested to answer roll call by presenting a Christmas cookie recipe.

The program featured Anna Mae Rohrer, a Lancaster artist, who gave an interesting talk and demonstration on Christmas decorations and gifts made from materials available in most homes. She

also exhibited some of her paintings.

During the business meeting the society donated \$5.00 to the Bookmobile of the Lancaster Free Public Library, and a like amount each to the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic, the United Campaign, and the Tuberculosis Society.

Husbands of the members will be the guests at an old fashioned Christmas party to be held on December 17 at the Kirkwood Oddfellows Hall. Gifts will be exchanged and Big Sisters will be revealed during the program which will be provided by the children of the members. The refreshments will be in the form of a covered dish social.

points to a price. If the meal can be bought for less than the indicated price, so much the better.

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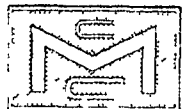


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## Push Button Computer Will Figure 'Least Cost' Feed Mix

Push-button answers to farm management problems have come one step closer with the development of an experimental computer at the Agricultural Experiment Station at the Pennsylvania State University.

Called a portable analog computer, the device is being tested at Penn State to calculate least-cost feed formulas for livestock.

Such a computer would have many practical uses around the farm, according to its developers and testers, economist Robert F. Hutton and electrical engineer Carl Volz of the faculty. The device could help determine the most profitable animal and crop rotation programs and least-cost farm expansion plans. It could also be used

to calculate the most profitable fertilizing and irrigation plans.

The figuring is done by control of electric circuits within the machine. Certain characteristics of a least-cost dairy feed—bulk, total digestible nutrients, and protein content for example—are represented by electric circuits.

Cost of the ingredients in a feed mix is set on one series of dials. Costs of other ingredients that could be used—such as corn, bran, dried distillers' grains, and the like—are set on other series of dials.

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