

Lancaster Farming

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\$2 Per Year



NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS OF the county 4-H Guernsey club are, left to right, Donald Ankrum, song leader; Mary Ellen Mumma, county 4-H Council representative; Roy Breneman, president; Elaine Stoltzfus, junior leader; Melvin Breneman, game leader and junior club leader; Nancy Stoltzfus, secretary; Richard Ankrum, vice president. The officers were elected Wednesday night.

L. F. Photo.

Farmers Plan To Increase Dairy Cow Numbers 20%

HARRISBURG — More than 20 per cent of Pennsylvania dairy farmers plan to increase their herd size in 1963 on the basis of a March 1 statewide survey of the state's 32,000 commercial herds by the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service of the State Department of Agriculture.

Most, however, will retain their present herd size, and a few have indicated their herds are up for sale and that they plan to quit the dairy business.

Dewey O. Boster, PCRS chief statistician, said changes in dairy plans were related to a number of factors. Among these were a steady decline in wholesale milk blend price since 1957, a changeover from

milk cans to bulk tanks, improved mechanization, better management, and increased production per cow.

Boster observed that, paradoxically, the drop in blend price "apparently was spurring increased milk production, rather than curtailing it, as a means for maintaining present levels of gross return."

Plans to increase herd size

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Pest Control Meet Is Set

A meeting of special interest to farmers, custom spray operators and others who may handle or use pest control materials was announced this week by assistant county agent Arnie Lueck.

Scheduled to get under way at 7:30 p.m. on March 18 in the Lester Singer shop in Ronks, the program will feature three plant experts from the Pennsylvania State University.

The program will be concerned with timely information on farm crops for the growing season just ahead, presented by the following men: Mr. John Pepper, Extension Entomologist — "Insects and their Control"; Mr. Carlton Taylor, Extension Plant Pathologist — "Control of Plant Diseases"; Mr. George Berggren, Extension Agronomist — "Farm Weed Control".

I am sure you are well aware that new and more effective ways of pest control are constantly coming along. The safe and proper use of these materials is important. You will learn of the recent developments in this important area of your

Roy Breneman Is Elected By Guernsey 4-H

Roy Breneman, Willow St. R1, was elected president and County Council representative of the county Guernsey 4-H club Wednesday night at a re-organizational meeting on the farm of B. Snively Garber, Willow Street R2. He succeeds Elaine Stoltzfus, Ronks R1. Miss Stoltzfus was elected a junior leader by the 36 members present at the meeting.

Other officers elected were vice president, Richard Ankrum, Peach Bottom; secretary, Nancy Stoltzfus, Ronks R1, treasurer, Donald Ankrum, Peach Bottom, song leader, Doris Breneman, Willow Street R1, and game leaders Susanne Mumma, Manheim R1, and Melvin Breneman, Strasburg R1. Melvin was also elected a junior leader.

The other club representative on County 4-H Council is Miss Mary Ellen Mumma, Manheim R1.

The club voted in the six following adult leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Witmer, Will-

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Livestock Co-op Meets Today

Producers Livestock Cooperative will elect four directors, including two from Lancaster County, at the 20th annual meeting today.

The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. in the Farm Bureau Cooperative building, Dillerville Road, Lancaster.

Guest speaker for the meeting will be George Steele, president of the Chester-Deleware Farm Bureau Cooperative. He will present a slide illustrated lecture on a recent trip he and

Foreign Meat Imports Did Not Hurt Local Price

The import of \$1.22 billion worth of meat into the United States last year did more to help than hinder the domestic cattle market, cattle feeders were told Wednesday.

At a meeting of about 110 cattle feeders in the Lancaster Poultry Center, Louis Moore, extension agriculture economist from the Pennsylvania State University, said that most of the imports were lower grade cuts that went into manufactured meats such as hot dogs and sausage.

If we had not had the imports, he said, the price of hot dogs might have gone to as high as \$2.00 per pound, and we would have lost our market for some of the specialty meats. Domestic feeders continued to supply the steaks and other choice cuts, and we held our sausage market, he said.

He told feeders to look for some improvement in cattle prices during the next few months, but not to expect anything as favorable as the price structure last fall.

In answer to a question from a cattle feeder, Moore said he did not believe the livestock holding action of the National

Farmers Organization last summer had very little, if any, effect on the market price of cattle. "I believe the president of the NFO took advantage of a situation he knew was coming, but I don't believe the action had much effect," he said.

Moore said that less than half the cattle sold nationally is now going directly to butchers, and "the percentage is still growing". He said the situation was first blamed on auctions, but in 1962 both stockyard and auction volume declined. Packers went out and built new plants in areas of dense cattle population and began buying directly from the producer. Over 90 per cent of all cattle fattened in California now are sold directly from producer to packer, he said.

Dr. Thomas King, extension livestock specialist, told the cattlemen that research shows that 86 per cent of all variations in income from cattle feeding come from cost of feed and margins.

Margins are getting narrower each year, therefore, feeders have to depend more on

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Co. Soil Conservation District Backs President's Budget Request

County Soil Conservation District directors Monday night drafted a letter to Pennsylvania's two Senators and the county's representative in the House of Representatives calling for support of President Kennedy's request for an increased budget for the Soil Conservation Service.

Amos Funk, chairman, told the district directors the modest increase requested was necessary to insure that the Soil Conservation Service can carry on the stepped up program planned.

He said the increase, the first asked for in years, is likely

to be cut from the budget in the economy drive now on in the Nation's capital.

Increased work load and cost of operations has "robbed the Soil Conservation Service of an average of 15 man years per district" during the past 12 years, Funk pointed out. The service operated during that time both locally and in other Pennsylvania counties without any basic increase in funds.

He noted that the Service personnel has also been asked to assume such other work as monitoring radioactivity in the atmosphere, developing watershed plans, and assisting with water programs for counties and other municipalities.

Copies of the letter will be sent to Senators Joseph Clark

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Corn Growers To Hold Meet

A meeting of interest to county corn growers has been scheduled for next week by the extension service, assistant county agent Arnie Lueck said this week.

Three Penn State specialists will discuss corn hybrid varieties, cultural practices and newer management programs, fertilization practices, yields, and insect, disease, and weed control.

The specialists will be John O. Pepper, entomologist; Carlton Taylor, disease specialist, and George Berggren, agronomist.

Awards will be made to 17 county entrants in the five-acre corn contest.

FIVE-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Temperatures during the next five days are expected to average near the normal range of 33 at night to 52 in the afternoon. Moderate temperatures are expected throughout the period but a little colder weather is expected Monday. Precipitation may total 0.1 to 0.5 inch (melted) occurring as showers late Sunday or early Monday and again late Wednesday.