

Tobacco Growers

(Continued from Page 1)
 price, the association proposes that an off-year referendum be held in Lancaster County. According to the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office, this can be brought about if 25 percent of the county's 8000 eligible voters petitioned the Secretary of Agriculture to hold such a referendum. The petition with 2000 signatures would have to be forwarded to the Secretary by November 1. The referendum, if demanded by the growers, would then be held in February, 1967, and, if approved by two-thirds of the eligible voters, would place supports and quotas under the 1967, 1968, and 1969 tobacco crops.

Tri-County temporary president B. C. Brubaker of Columbia R2 said that, "with our organization, tobacco farm-

ers have everything to gain and nothing to lose. This situation is never going to get any better by itself. If you sit back and let it continue, you are doing a disservice to yourselves and to your sons who will farm after you," Brubaker heatedly told the assembled growers.

If quality were any criterion, several growers agreed that if last year's crop was worth 32 cents per pound, this year's tobacco should be bringing 40 cents, not the current 25 cents.

S. S. Bard, East Petersburg, who was formerly manager of the Lancaster County Tobacco Growers Association during the time that organization operated its sales barn, told the group that "quotas with price supports is the only answer if tobacco growing in Lancaster County is to survive." In the meantime, he said, "it's going to take guts to hold your crop,

and not give it away at ridiculous prices."

Only three growers present said they had sold their current crops, but it was observed by one member that "guts don't put bread on the table when you need cash to live".

According to Brubaker, many Amish farmers with whom he has spoken are very much concerned over the future of farming tobacco. He indicated they had expressed an interest in working for better tobacco prices, and he stressed that their cooperation was vital to the success of the association's program.

"Farmers suffer now from poor information," Brubaker said. "One very important function of this association will be to get accurate information to them through meetings, post cards, and telephone calls."

To operate the organization,

and to help finance its farmer-educational program, each member must consign \$2 a year to the association for each acre of tobacco he raises.

It was reported by Brubaker that 656 acres had already been so consigned by members. The young association claimed 44 members had already pledged their support as a result of the three little "bush" meetings that had been held earlier.

WEAVER NAMED CHAPTER STAR FARMER AT L-S

Robert Weaver, Strasburg R1, received the Chapter Star Farmer award Thursday night at the annual Garden Spot Future Farmers of America Father and Son Banquet. He also serves as chapter and county FFA president.

Clair Esbenshade Willow Street, received the Star Greenhand award at the banquet, held at Lampeter Strasburg High School.

Other awards presented by T. M. Mahm, FFA adviser to Lancaster and York counties included Larry Breneman Strasburg R1 crop farming; Milton Grott Beaver Valley Pike poultry; Robert Meck Strasburg R1 livestock farming; Kenneth Leaman Windy

Hill Road, dairy farming; Larry Herr, Penn Grant Road, farm safety; and James Leaman, Windy Hill Road, farm mechanics.

John Henkel, of the Lancaster County Swine Producers Assn., presented a trophy to John Welk, Strasburg R1, for his achievement at the Lampeter Fair in the fall carcass show.

Robert Keen, of Queen Dairy, presented an award to Larry Breneman.

FFA Chapter awards, presented by vocational agriculture teacher G. M. Kiger, went to Donald Herr, Willow Street, and Clair Esbenshade.

Named 1966 honorary chapter farmers were Lloyd Herr, Lloyd Neff, Dennis Simmons, Ben Eardley, and Robert Censier.

Manheim YFA Plans Annual Banquet Meet

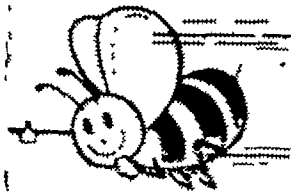
The Manheim Young Farmer Association announced this week that it will hold its annual banquet on Friday, March 18 at the Penton Fire Hall at 7 p.m.

The featured speaker will be renowned agricultural photographer Grant Helman of Lutz; he will also show pictures.

Tickets for the banquet may be obtained from any association member.



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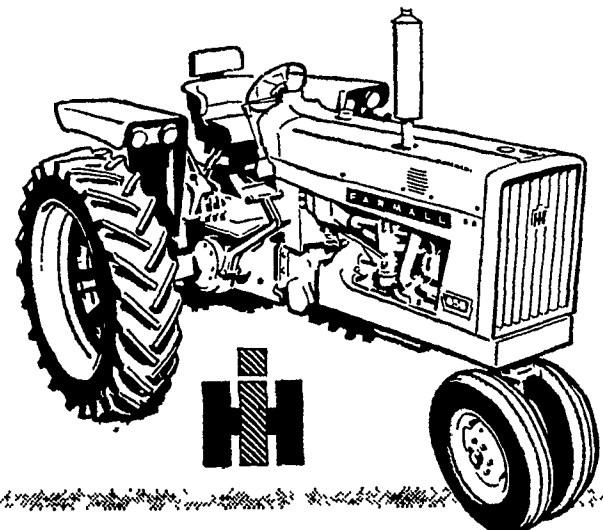
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