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Effects Of Spreading Urbanization Discussed At Area Farmer Meeting

Martindale area farmers, gathered at the Lincoln Independent School Wednesday night, heard three speakers in a panel discussion of some of the problems inherent in urbanization of farm areas.

Public affairs specialist from Penn State University, William Carroll, told the farmers that in "all the northeast the most pressing problem presented by people moving to the country is water supply and waste disposal and water pollution is fast becoming a critical issue."

The more people that move in the greater the pressure on your land, Carroll said. He briefly outlined the eminent domain legislation passed last year in Pennsylvania, telling the farmers that this meaningful piece of legisla-

tion liberalized the rights of private property owners to bargain and to enter into discussions with anyone who aimed to take their land for public use.

"And there will be more and more pressure by people who want to use your land for such recreational pursuits as hiking, swimming, fishing and camping. As more private land is posted to prevent trespassing, the pressure on those who don't post their land will increase still further," Carroll said.

Farmers have two main alternatives in trying to preserve their farmland, he said. They can band together by areas and mutually agree that none will sell his land for non-farm use.

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Cattlemen Told To Provide Some Shelter For Stock; Avoid Stress

Area cattle feeders were exposed to a double barreled dose of housing and disease information Monday night at the final of two extension meetings held at the Brecht School, Lancaster.

Approximately 50 cattlemen heard livestock extension specialist Lester Burdette describe various types of housing and mechanization for handling feeder cattle. After showing a series of slides picturing these systems, he gave a detailed account of costs versus benefits to the feeder.

"Some form of shelter is definitely indicated to get the best results in terms of profits — rate and cost of gain," Burdette said. "But," the specialist added, "research does not support any definite advantage, in

terms of profits, for housing more elaborate than the open-front sheds."

He suggested that the more confinement and the more mechanization, the higher the costs per head of cattle handled.

In discussing mechanization specifically, Burdette said the feeder must have a profitable alternative for his time saved through the use of mechanical equipment, "otherwise, it (the equipment) probably has little more than prestige value," he cautioned the farmers.

Dr. Samuel Guss, extension veterinarian from Penn State, talked about that much used but seldom understood word — STRESS. "Stress is what an

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Tony T. Dechant

Dechant Named To Head NFU

Tony T. Dechant, secretary-treasurer for the National Farmers Union for the past 20 years, was named last week at the NFU's 64th annual convention to succeed retiring president James G. Patton.

The 50-year-old Dechant is a long-time protégé of Patton's. In addition to his secretary-treasurer capacity, Dechant also served NFU as vice-president of its life insurance, property and casualty companies and of the NFU Development Corporation. He also was secretary of the Farmers Educational Foundation.

A native Kansan, Dechant and his wife and two children reside in Denver, Colorado.

Also elected was Edwin Christianson. He had previously

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SWCD Directors Salute Maresch; Meet New Co. Conservationist, Bass

The directors of the Lancaster County Soil and Water Conservation District said a formal farewell to Wayne F. Maresch, SCS work unit conservationist in the county for the past two years, at a dinner held last night at the Meadow Hills Dining Room.

Maresch has been promoted and reassigned to the SCS Washington, D.C. office where he will serve as assistant chief of the management records branch.

The dinner also served as an opportunity to meet and welcome the new county conservationist who will be working with the district in the future. He is Orval A. Bass, a native of Nebraska, but recently from Pennsylvania's Clarion County where he was the SCS work unit conservationist for the past three years.

Bass spent most of this week getting a look at Lancaster County as he traveled with Maresch. He noted that although the farms appear smaller and more numerous than in his home state, the countryside is not unlike that of southern

Nebraska. Corn is the main crop grown in that area, he said, and much of it is grown under irrigation. Milo is another crop which is grown extensively out that way, but he

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Orval A. Bass

County Farmers' Assn. To Hold Spring Meet.

The Lancaster County Farmers' Association will hold its annual Spring meeting Thursday, March 31, at 7:30 p.m. at the Leola Memorial Building.

Featured speaker will be J. Carl Empie, vice-president of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association.

Warren Leininger of Denver, R2, will show pictures of his recent trip to South America. Also, the various committees will give reports on their activities.

Farm Calendar

March 28 — 1-4:30 p.m., Extension Service tobacco seed cleaning and treating at John Glick's Plant Farm, Smoke-town.

— 6:30 p.m., 4-H County Council leader's banquet at Plain & Fancy Farm, Bird-in-Hand.

— 7:30 p.m., Ephrata Adult Farmer Class, "Soil tests and coin planters", at Ephrata High School.

— 7:30 p.m., County FFA Chapter meets at Lampeter-Strasburg High School.

March 29 — 9-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-4:30 p.m., Extension Service Tobacco seed cleaning and treatment at PSU Field Research Farm.

March 31 — 6:30 p.m., Manheim FFA Chapter Parent-Son banquet at Manheim H.S. cafeteria.

— 7:30 p.m., Lancaster Co. Farmers Assn. annual Spring

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New Agent Joins Extension Staff

Assistant county agent Harvey Gipe joined the extension service staff this week to temporarily fill the vacancy left by Winthrop Merriam. Merriam is on leave, and is completing requirements for a Master's degree at Penn State University.

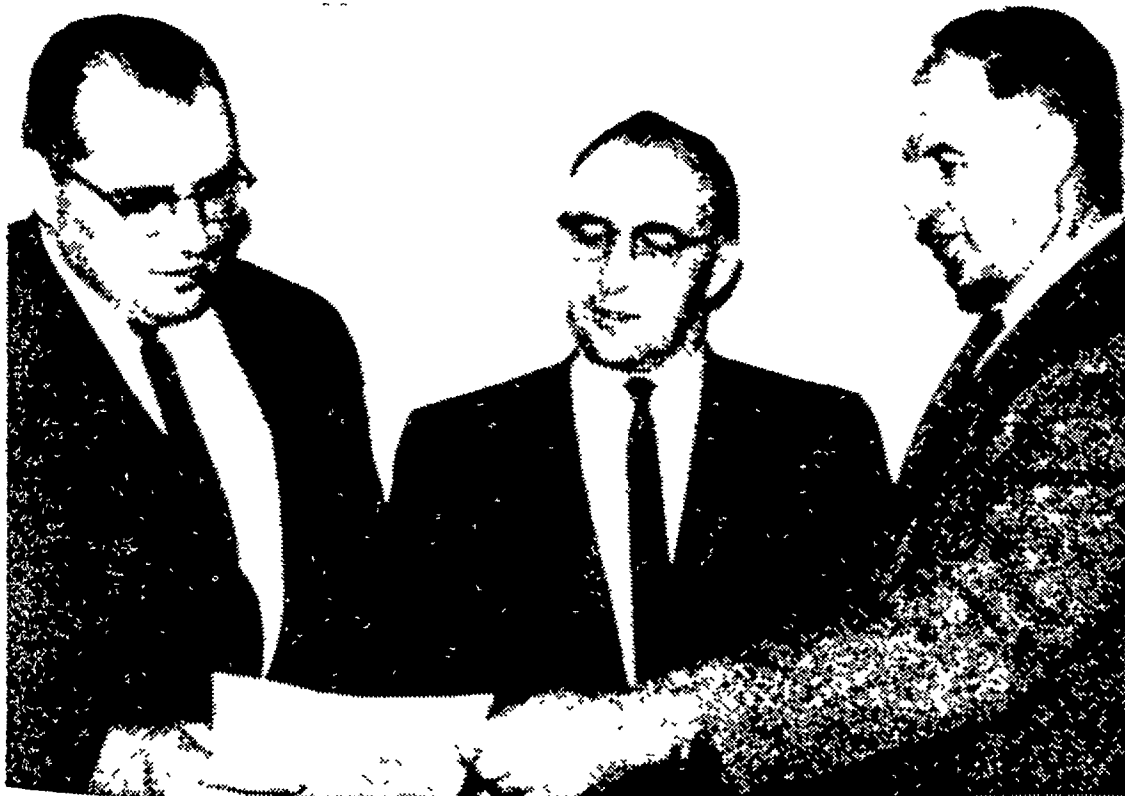
Gipe expects to be in the county for about four months, and will be mainly concerned with 4-H Club activities.

Gipe is a native of the Elizabethtown area, on the Dauphin County side, but he is no stranger to Lancaster County. Many of the Club activities in which he engaged during his eight years in 4-H work

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Harvey Gipe



EXTENSION PERSONNEL who put on the second cattle feeder meeting this week are left to right: Lester Burdette, livestock specialist; M. M. Smith, Lancaster County Agent; and Dr. Samuel Guss, veterinarian.

L. F. Photo