

Eminent Domain Law Reviewed For Landowners

County farmers and other landowners last Friday afternoon were told that under the new eminent domain law landowners must be paid 100 percent of the appraised value of land taken for highways within 60 days after declaration of taking.

Hollis Hatfield, legislative secretary of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association, was the featured speaker at the Mount Joy Fire Hall meeting sponsored by the Lancaster County Farmers' Association.

The key to settlement in these matters, Hatfield advised, is to keep a rein on tempers and to maintain friendly relations. Most cases can be settled out of court, he added.

Hatfield advised the landowners not to be rushed into a damages settlement, the statute of limitations on this is six years, he said.

In suggesting procedures to follow, Hatfield said damages

should be recorded as they occur, and a value placed on each for final settlement.

He listed things to consider as damages should include lawn, crops, loss of business, decreased land value, moving expenses, and even loss of a desirable milk market if farmer is forced to relocate.

After land is taken, Hatfield advised, farmers should apply to their local tax offices for reassessment on a lesser number of acres.

The PFA was instrumental in getting the new eminent domain law written and passed. Hatfield told the farmers, and did so over the opposition of the Highway Department.

'67 Outlook

(Continued from Page 1) that could bode good for some farmers and not so good for some others.

Porter said that Pennsylvania will have a record year in terms of cash receipts, with gross income running well above \$800 million. He predicted that increased production expenses would reduce the net income figure somewhat.

this year. He added that the southeastern quarter of Pennsylvania accounts for approximately one-half of the state's farm income.

DAIRY

In discussing the outlook for dairy farmers, Johnstone noted reduced milk supplies, improved prices, and a slacking off in increased production per cow. "These are the major factors in the situation we see today," the economist said.

He added that increased

beef cattle prices have influenced heavy culling in dairy herds, and have provided incentive for dairymen to switch to beef production, further accelerating the decline in number of dairy cows. He said that reduction of Pennsylvania dairy herds in 1966 was only 1.5 percent, well below the averages of other regions.

HOGS

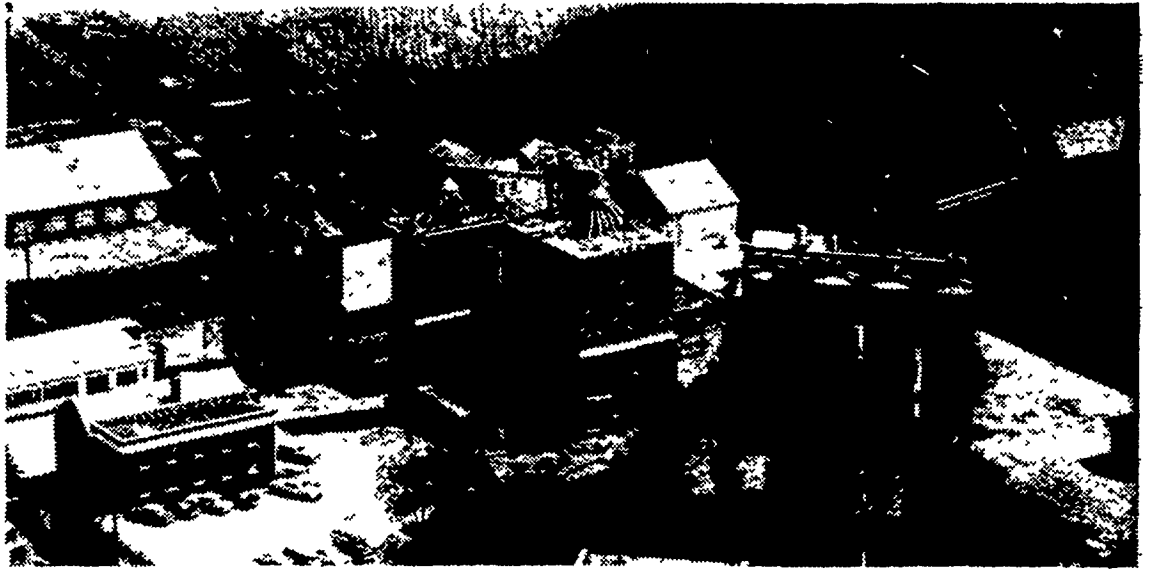
With only a three percent increase in farrowings indicated this year, Porter said, and a strong beef demand, hog prices should hold up fairly well through 1967.

Johnstone also noted the break-down on Lancaster County milk shippers, and the markets to which they ship.

He said 1052 ship to the New

York-New Jersey market; 780 to Delaware Valley; 182 to Upper Chesapeake; and six to Washington D.C.

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