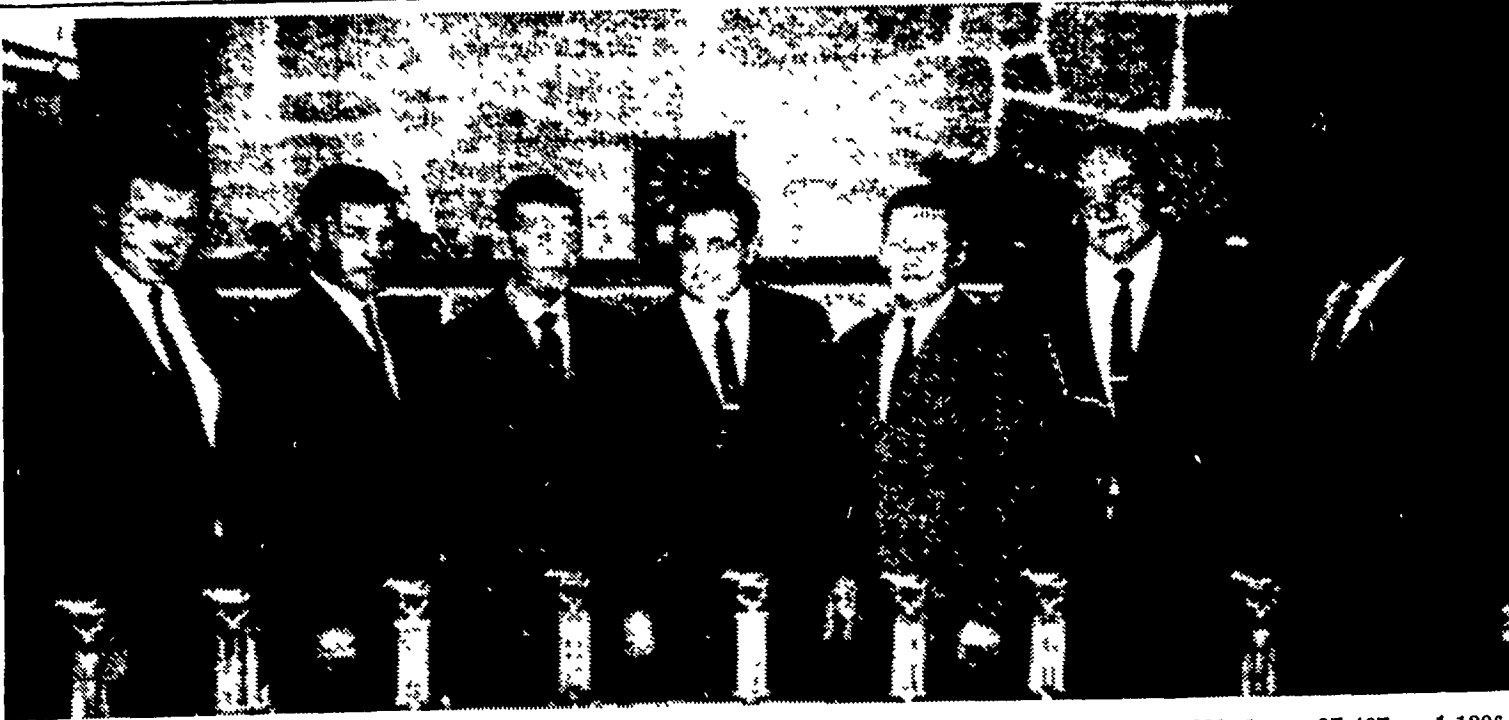


GRANGE NEWS



HONORED at the Dairy Production Awards Banquet by Miller and Bushong, Inc., for high production records are: (left to right) Richard and Fred Lieske, Ponderosa Farm, Rising Sun, Maryland; Glenn Freese, Side Brook Farm, Oxford; Ray Harbold, Ray-Line Farm, Mt. Joy; Jay Landis, Pa-Ta-Ja Farm, Lancaster R6; William Arrowsmith, Hillacres Farm, Peach Bottom; George Edgeington, Manager, Fair Hill Farms, Chestertown, Md. The high herd was the Ponderosa Farm herd with 85 cows averaging 15,914 pounds of milk and 659 pounds of butterfat. And they also had the two

highest record cows: Stella, 329 days, 27,467m, 1,139f; and Jewel Alice, 333 days, 25,282m, 1,192f. Other high record cows and their honored owners are: Fairhill Farms, Linda, 365 days, 27,578m, 1,071f; Pa-Ta-Ja Farm, Princess, 5-8y, 365d, 22,171m, 1,026f; Ray-Line Farm, Marie Hartog, 7-3y, 344d, 25,269m, 1,011f; Side Brook Farm, Jean Dolly, 5-4y, 365d, 23,976m, 1,008f; Hillacres Farm, 6y, 301d, 16,035m, 814f; Apple Brook Farm, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Brown, Oxford, Topsy, 8-1y, 305d, 12,173m, 813f; and Glen Tyan Farm, Rising Sun, Md., Morning Glory, 3y, 374d, 14,813m, 800f.

William Fredd, Agriculture Department of Solanco Sr. High School, was the speaker at Fulton Grange #66 at their regular meeting January 27 held at Oakryn. His topic was "Simulation on Computers For Farm Management." He showed colored slides of the Willis Krantz farm, Quarryville R. D., where he and a group of young farmers are simulating computer knowledge for its farm management.

During the business session conducted by the Master, Clifford W. Holloway Jr., \$10.00 was given to a needy family in the county.

The Pomona chorus will hold rehearsal February 9, 8 p.m. at Fulton Grange Hall and a Pomona code-reading class and party will be held at the home of Charles McSparran, Quarryville, February 14, 8 p.m. Mrs. Elaine Stoltzfus is in charge of games.

The Youth Committee is sponsoring a dance for community young people February 15, 8 to 11 p.m. at the Grange Hall with "Incense" band furnishing music. Plans were made for a bus trip to the Chrysler Plant, Newark, Del. February 18, leaving the Grange Hall at 6:45 p.m. Reservations should be made through Mrs. J. Stanley Stauffer Jr.

Ground-oriented friend says that taking a train is the only way to fly.

● Firm Offering

(Continued from Page 1)

Cultivation should begin as soon as you see down the row and hand labor is necessary to thin the beets. The thinning process should be completed by mid June and the labor is available by Mexican American workers supplied by the New York company.

Sugar beets send a large root system deep into the soil, therefore requiring a deep soil and also reaching deeper soil nutrients and water.

At harvest time in the fall, the tops are removed and a harvesting machine is sent into the field to pull the beet roots and load them on a truck for hauling to the receiving station.

Receive At E-Town

The local meeting was the fourth held to date in the 14 Southeastern counties of Pennsylvania. Richards said the company has the location of its receiving station picked in Elizabethtown where there is Railroad service and good highways. He reported 700 acres already promised for planting from Hershey Estates and farmers in Dauphin County. This leaves

a need for 1300 acres to be planted preferably in Lancaster and York Counties.

One of the problems in getting acreage this year is the Alrazine carry-over from the last corn crop. You can't grow beets the year following corn that has been treated with this weed control chemical.

Sugar beets are a high-yield crop according to Richards. The tops are good for cattle feed (about the same value as wilted alfalfa) or green fertilizer. And you also have the cash crop of beets.

Contract Offered

Explaining the grower contract Richards said, "We guarantee \$14 per ton of Sugar Beets received at the station. You can't go below that on the present contract but if the sugar market prices increase you can benefit. Another advantage," the representative said, "is that you know what you will be paid before you plant the crop."

On a question from the group, Richards figured the current price to farmers on a ton of beets averaging 20 percent sugar at a little over \$16 plus the

government subsidy of 80 cents per hundredweight. Total estimated growing costs were not given at the meeting but labor for the first weeding and thinning was reported at \$20 to \$30 per acre and \$10 or \$11 per acre for maybe two more weedings. Seed supplied by the company was set at about \$10.50 per acre (three pounds at \$3.50 per pound). Other costs would include tractor cultivations and harvesting equipment or custom harvesting.

The company by contract must pay the grower 75 percent of his earnings by December 15 and the final payment which reflects the sugar prices for the year must be paid by October 1970. The contract is for one year. "You will belong to the Finger Lakes Sugar Beet Growers Association," Richards said. "They negotiate the contract with the company and have access to the company testing and weighing facilities."

It was reported that \$300,000 is what the company will spend to put the receiving station in the local area. Therefore the

need for the minimum 2,000 acres. The goal is to get enough acres in Pennsylvania to establish a refinery here. That would take 30 to 40 thousand acres.

The future potential of diverted acres to sugar beets away from other regular Pennsylvania farm crops was the reason for the local visit by the representative from the State Ag Dept. Anstine said, "Secretary Bull is especially interested in how farmers will respond to the sugar beet proposition and what crop acreage changes will be made. We aren't here to sell the idea but we will help farmers all we can."

Anstine told Lancaster Farming after the meeting that Secretary Bull is interested in seeing a new cash crop such as this in Pennsylvania but he wants it to come orderly and only fast enough to result in a successful venture for farmers.

Sign-up

A contract signing meeting for farmers with officials of the New York Sugar Industries, Inc., will be held Wed., February 12 from 1:30 to 5 p.m. in the Farm and Home Center

Originally it had been reported that a minimum of 50 acres were needed to make the project advisable. Richards clarified this Thursday by saying they will take farmers with 5 or 10 acres who want to try it. But he cautioned that such small acreage will not justify buying the huge harvesting equipment. "If several farmers want to go together and get the work done on a custom basis it will work fine," he said. The 40 or 50 acres are needed if the individual wants to buy his own harvesting machines.

In closing the meeting Smith said that it was up to the individual farmer now to decide if raising sugar beets will pay. "We have the climate, soil and the good farmers to do it," he said. "But, you must decide it beets can compete with the crops you now have."

Inquiries or questions may be directed to the County Agent's Office in the Farm and Home Center Building.

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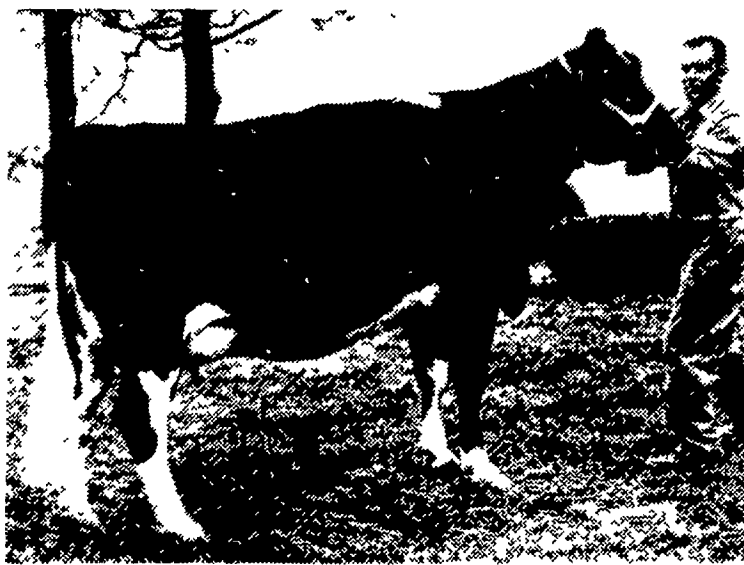
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