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Herd Health And Management Meeting Held By PSU Specialists

A pair of Penn State dairy specialists were at the Farm and Home Center Tuesday to discuss herd health and management problems with Lancaster County Farmers. Dr. Samuel Guss, Extension Veterinarian, and Donald Ace, Extension Dairy Specialist, were the featured leaders

Ace discussed the problem of using a single forage feeding program such as all silage. "Single forage problems are high risk rations," he said. "On the West Coast, where they irrigate and have excellent alfalfa hay, they are starting to feed corn silage to balance their alfalfa hay. We feel you must get some other forage ingredient into the cow besides corn silage sometime during the lactation. We have a lot to find out before we can recommend corn silage as a total ration."

"Corn silage drops dry matter

intake and does not respond in the stomach like hay," Ace said. "When you are feeding more than 500 pounds of silage we call it a high silage feeding program. The problems with one forage ingredient are real, not just imaginary."

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Report Shows \$35,554 In On F & H Drive

Officials of the Farm & Home Foundation's Completion Fund Campaign announced yesterday that the first over-all "progress report" compiled in the drive shows a total of \$35,554.00 subscribed to date. The report was issued by John H. Herr and Lawrence H. Skromme, general co-chairmen of the \$150,000 capital funds appeal.

In releasing a break-down of the reports turned in thus far by units of the drive, the results have been produced by these divisions of volunteer canvassers: Farm Gifts: \$19,504; Major Gifts: \$9,335; Special Gifts: \$6,025; and Clubs & Organizations: \$690.

The campaign leaders indicated that "more than half the soliciting assignments have either not been completed or reported on, as of Friday." Both men stated that the volume of reporting began picking up only late last week and that efforts are being made to encourage the volunteer canvassers to

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Crops And Soils Day Coming Tuesday

The Lancaster County Crops and Soils Day will be held Tuesday, February 25 at the Farm and Home Center according to Arnold G. Lueck, Associate County Agent. Starting time for exhibits to be open is 8:30 a.m.

The featured speakers on the program will be two Extension Agronomists and an Extension Entomologist from Penn State. Also a special speaker from the State Wildlife Service and one of the local County Agents will contribute to the program.

Timely topics to be presented (Continued on Page 10)

State-Wide Poultry Symposium Brings Specialists To Local Area

A state-wide Poultry Symposium titled, Pennsylvania's Challenge: Competitive Egg Production and Marketing, was held at the local Farm and Home Center Thursday with a list of Pennsylvania State University staff members on hand to provide information on all phases of the subject.

Opening the discussion with the topic, Valid Cost Comparisons, Anthony Stemberger, Professor of Ag Marketing, emphasized the need to have the same figures included when compar-

ing cost of production. And when comparisons are made you need to consider the size of operation, what size eggs and what egg quality is being compared. "There is no single cost of production for any person or any area," he said.

"I suspect if we could compare our area with others, we would be surprised at the advantages we have. We are closer to the market, receive higher egg prices than most, are better able to offer services and we are concentrated enough so

marketing costs are low. For those who are willing to expand to a full-time operation, I think poultrymen in this area will make money," Stemberger concluded.

Feeding For Low Cost Production was the subject assigned to Roland Leach, Associate Professor of Poultry Science. Leach said feed cost is the major item in producing a dozen of eggs. He said cost per ton is not the way it should be figured but cost per dozen of eggs produced.

"What we are really talking about is ingredient cost," he said. "The two most important ingredients are energy and protein. Energy is used by the bird for maintenance — body size and environment temperatures. A bird eats to satisfy her energy needs and two-thirds of energy goes for egg production. In the case of protein needs the ratio is reversed, two-thirds of the birds needs go for egg production and one-third goes for maintenance."

The specialist said poultrymen must be careful when the hens are in late production. When the flock average drops birds who are still producing at 80 or 85 percent but the low flock production comes because many birds have dropped out of production altogether. Leach recommended limited phase feeding which takes into account

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Crossbreeding And Sow Confinement Discussed

Crossbreeding and Brood Sow Confinement were the topics discussed Monday night at the Swine Educational meeting held in the Farm and Home Center. Grant Sherritt, Animal Science Dept., Penn State University and Dwight Younkun, Livestock Extension, Penn State, were the speakers.

Sherritt discussed the two methods of crossbreeding — rotational crossbreeding where three breeds are mixed and criss crossing using two breeds.

He said the deciding factor in choosing which method to use is the availability of top purebred breeding stock. "If you can get the stock," he said, "three breeds are best but it is

doubtful if adding the fourth is useful."

The three traits you are looking for in swine production were listed as Sow Productivity, Feed Lot Performance and Carcass Trait. "Crossbreeding increases sow productivity the most and carcass traits are hardly effected," he said. "This means it is just as important to have breeding lines that are good in all respects the same in purebred breeding."

On a question from one of the 50 swinemens present, Sherritt said using crossbred boars are not recommended because the major value in crossbreeding is the female hybrid vigor which

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A Visit To Ephrata

What Are Our Boys Doing

National Future Farmers of America Week is being celebrated this week and for a look at what Vocational Ag students do at school, Lancaster Farming visited the Ephrata Area High School for a look at the teaching program of Lew Ayers and Charles Ackley.

The Ag student here spends one-half of his school time in the classroom studying technical agriculture. The remaining 50 percent of his time is spent in shop work learning to put his book knowledge into practice. Training is offered in techniques and the science of production agriculture as well as marketing, and farm management. Special emphasis is given to complete and accurate record keeping. Considerable time is spent on farm mechanics training which includes maintenance and repair of farm machinery, welding, woodworking, spray painting, electricity and tractor maintenance. One of the newest developments in the mechanics department is a small gasoline engine course taught to the Junior students.

national agriculture are required to conduct a supervised farming program or an occupational agriculture work experience program. Farming programs at Ephrata center around dairy animals, swine, sheep, poultry and field crops. The occupational work experience is designed for students interested in Ag related jobs.

Senior Vocational Agriculture students are given the opportunity to gain experience in some type of agricultural business before graduation through the

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Farm Calendar

Monday, February 24
7:30 p.m.—Manheim Young Farmer meet, School Vo-Ag Room.
8:00 p.m.—DHIA Directors meet, Farm and Home Center.

Tuesday, February 25
8:30 a.m.—Lancaster County Crops and Soils Day, Farm and Home Center.

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BASIC WOOD WORKING SKILLS are part of the learning process of Freshman Vocational Agriculture students at Ephrata High School. Many of the boys complete tool or show projects as proof of the

experience. Above (left to right) Nelson Weaver, Robert Harting and Clifford Marton are youths who have just completed wood projects as part of their class work. L. F. Photo

All students enrolled in vo-