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Lancaster Farming

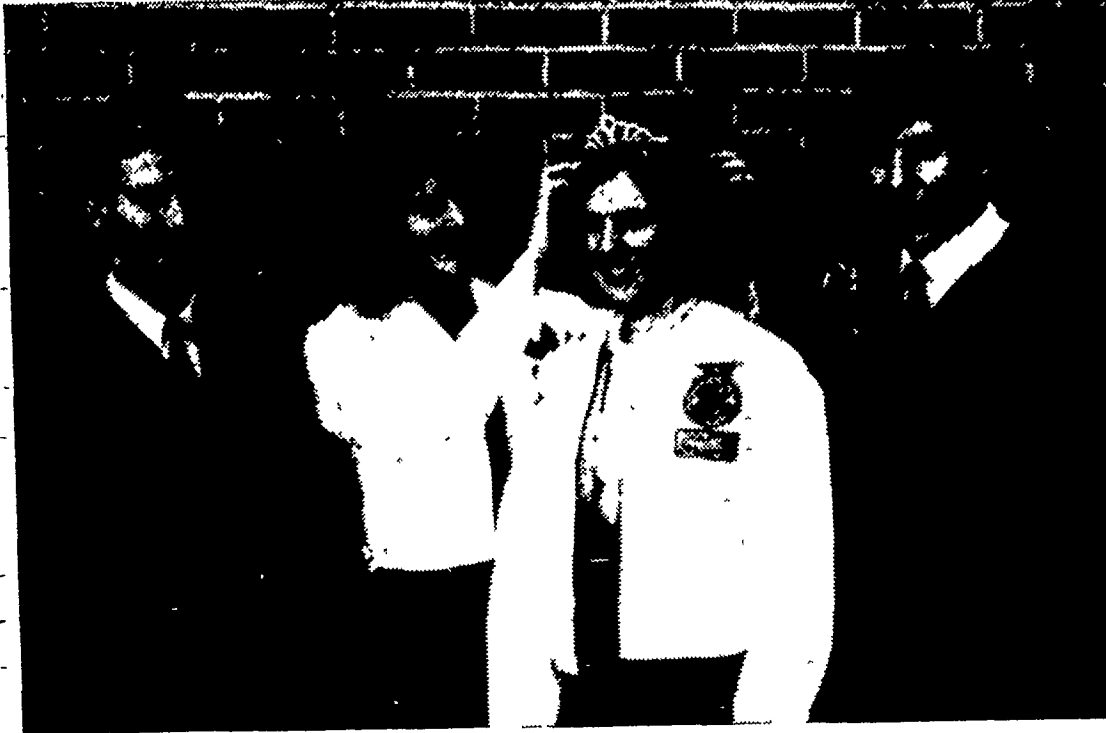
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Lancaster Farming, Saturday, March 15, 1969

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THE CHAPTER SWEETHEART of the Lampeter-Strasburg FFA was crowned Thursday afternoon at a school assembly program. She is Donna Hess. Do-

ing the honors is the 1968 Sweetheart Denise Leidich. Paul Eckman, President is left and John Brackbill, Vice President is on the right. L. F. Photo

Dairy Day Program Airs Health & Outlook Items

"Dairy farm income has caught up to the average income for the county," said Dr. C. William Pierce, Professor of Agriculture Economics at Penn State. Speaking at the Lancaster Co. Dairy Day Tuesday, at the Farm and Home Center, Pierce said, "The question is not can we do better, it is can we maintain the present milk prices."

With the subject, "Dairy Outlook", the professor compared the period 1960 to 1964 with 1965 to 1968 saying we look at what happened in the past to make some judgment on the future. In the first period, Pierce said milk prices fell 18 cents; feed concentrates rose 10 cents and the returns on the operators labor lost 40 per cent

"This was a tough period for dairy farmers," he said. Deliveries increased 16 per cent, utilization declined, farm numbers fell 20 per cent and cow numbers dropped 7 per cent. Milk output increased in 54 months out of 60 months in the period.

In the 1964-1968 period milk prices increased 25 per cent or \$1.20; feed concentrate rose only

2 per cent or 10 cents and the operators labor returned tripled. "The average income increase to pay other expenses was up \$1.07," he said.

Listing reasons for this prosperous period, Pierce said off farm employment opportunities permitted farmers to get out of farming and the price of cull cows remained higher. "It is a very important thing to consider the off-farm employment

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Lampeter-Strasburg FFA Honors Sixteen Former Am. Farmers

Sixteen American Farmers from former years were honored Thursday night at the Lampeter-Strasburg Annual Future Farmers of America Parent and Son Banquet held at the High School. The list of prominent businessmen and farmers dated back to 1940 starting with Wilbur Houser on through Melvin Burkhardt, 1942, Glenn Herr, 1943, Raymond Witmer, 1945, Mark Bushong, 1948, Carl Herr, 1948, J. Robert Hess, 1950, Ira Welk, 1952; Richard Hess, 1953, Mar-

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Baby Beef & Lamb Club Sell Tobacco Project; Give To Fund

The Lancaster County Red Rose 4-H Baby Beef and Lamb Club contributed \$717.00 to the Farm and Home Foundation's Completion Fund Campaign it was announced this week. The contribution has been earned by the 4-H teen-agers through three

special projects adopted in 1968 for the specific purpose of aiding completion of the new Farm and Home Center. The most ambitious project centered on raising an acre of tobacco. Members of the club planted, cultivated, cut and stripped the tobacco and sold it last week. J. Harold Frey, Marietta R D 1, one of the group's advisors, made the acre of ground available.

Other money-raising projects included a social, last June, and a Parents' Night "white elephant" sale in November. Sale of the tobacco, last week, (Continued on Page 12)

Farm And Home Fund Is Up To \$53,503

In a second general "progress report" issued this week by the Steering Committee for the Farm and Home Foundation's Completion Fund Campaign, officials indicated that a total of \$53,503.00 has been produced by the drive's three divisions of volunteer canvassers.

John H. Heir and L. H. Skromme, co-chairman of the \$150,000 capital funds appeal, stated that soliciting has been slower than originally anticipated but that the committee is encouraged by the response to date. The drive leaders said "a substantial volume of soliciting and reporting remains, what with the major gifts division

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Agriculture Kept Economy From Busting, Empie Says

"If it wasn't for Agriculture, our country would have had a bust several years ago," Carl Empie, Chester County Commissioner said Tuesday night speaking at the Lancaster Coun-

ty Farmers Association Spring Meeting at the Farm and Home Center, the former State Association vice president said, "Farmers are carrying a much heavier burden of taxes per person than others because of their land ownership."

Lancaster Co. Swine Meeting Is March 21

The Lancaster County Swine Breeders have set their Annual Meeting for Friday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Plain and Fancy Restaurant, Bird-in-Hand. The speaker will be Dr. Hannon Graves, Penn State, who will speak on "Animal Behavior." Tickets may be purchased from any County director.

In conjunction with the annual meeting a live evaluation contest will be held on Tuesday, March 18, starting at 1 p.m. at the Lancaster Stock Yards. Winners in the Evaluation Contest will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

Any swine breeder who wishes to enter the evaluation contest should contact Jim Horton at Masonic Homes Farms in Elizabethtown by Monday, March 17.

A strong spokesman for agricultural land preservation, Empie cited some of his problems as commissioner in Chester County.

"The law states that all property assessment must be uniform for all segments of a county and this assessment must be made at the fair market value," he said. "Farm land market values in Chester county range from \$600 to \$1,000 or \$2,000 per acre. If we assess farm land at that rate there will be no farms left in Chester county in five years. If we don't assess them in that way, we are breaking the law."

"It is absolutely necessary to get a constitutional change to tax farm land on its use value rather than on market value. We are one of only four states in the country that hasn't done this. We must have this relief," Empie said.

John Weidman was also on the program with a slide presentation of his recent trip to Russia.



TUESDAY WAS PORK DAY for the Senior girls in the Hempfield High School Home Economics Class. The class made pork several different ways as part of their class work. Materials and teaching aids are being provided for schools by the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council through the Lancaster County Swine Producers to give home economics departments an improved image of pork and to help educate the students. In the L. F. Photo checking their casserole are: (left to right) Beverly Hershey, Debrah Snader and Fran Bogart. The girls had to turn up the heat to get their dinner finished in time after this photographer finally got out of the kitchen. The teacher is Miss Barbara Gamble.

Farm Calendar

Monday, March 17
1:30 p.m.—Potato Growers meeting for Lancaster and Chester Co., Farm and Home Center

Tuesday, March 18
1 p.m.—Lancaster County Swine Producers Live Evaluation Contest, Lancaster Stockyards
7:30 p.m.—Lancaster County Farm and Home Board meet, Farm and Home Center.
7:30 p.m.—Manheim Young (Continued on Page 8)