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FFA DEGREE WINNING FATHER AND SONS. Ira Welk (center) was named an American Farmer in 1952 after receiving his Keystone Degree in 1949. Now his twin sons, Lloyd (left) and Leroy are nam-

ed to receive the FFA Keystone Degree at the Farm Show in Harrisburg in January. Lloyd has a Charolais cross-bred steer for his latest FFA project but Leroy is a confirmed Hereford man. L. F. Photo

Solanco Twins Follow Father's Footsteps As Keystone Farmers

When you talk about FFA achievements in the Ira Welk family you don't talk singularly, that's for sure. Because when the Keystone Farmer Degrees are given at the mid-winter convention at the Harrisburg Farm Show in a few weeks, not just one but two of the state awards will be coming to this Quarryville R3 address. You see, Lloyd and Leroy Welk are twins

And if you want to go a step further, you could say the boys are following in dad's footsteps. For in 1949 Ira too received the Keystone Degree while in high school at Lampeter and in 1952, he became an American Farmer, the highest national award given in FFA.

So, with this representation of outstanding agriculture achievement in one family, you naturally ask for comments about the past and the future. "If a fellow had 30 cows when I started farming," Ira said, "he had a big herd. The overhead was not nearly so great, and two

or three men took care of them. Now 50, 75 or even 100 cows in a herd are common" And Ira remembers a \$2,200 tractor that now costs \$5,000.

As for the future, the six-foot, one-inch tall boys are agreed that dairy and beef operations will get bigger but obtaining land and labor will get tougher. "I don't think farming \$1,000 per acre land is very profitable if you must go out and buy it to start farming," Lloyd said. And as for the new proposal to set aside land to be used only for farming (see story page 1 of Lancaster Farming December 20 issue) Lloyd favored the idea and if it affected him directly would go along with it. "But I doubt that it will lower the price of farm land in Lancaster County very much," he said. "Because outside people who want to buy farm land will run-up the price on local farmers" Leroy agrees but also added that the land tax advantage for farmers as proposed would be helpful.

When you ask the boys about their projects, Lloyd will say he has had projects of dairy, beef, corn, tobacco, swine and alfalfa. And Leroy will say he had "the same" Leroy is the Chapter Reporter at Solanco and Lloyd is Secretary.

But the 17-year-old Seniors (their birthday was yesterday), though in many ways are identical, do not always like the same side of farming Leroy

Dairymen Vote No In Milk Referendum

Dairymen across Pennsylvania rejected the proposed milk marketing program last week. The announcement came Tuesday from the Department of Agriculture in Harrisburg.

The defeat showed 54.5 percent of the dairymen voting as being against the measure while 45.5 percent of those voting were for the program. A Lancaster County official said that as long as he could remember, about 30 percent of the dairymen payed for advertising of milk and all the other farmers rode along on their efforts. "Apparently this situation will continue," he said. Nearly every farm organization had supported the program, but individual farmers went against their organization's opinions.

Only 10,060 farmers voted out of a state possible vote of 22,500 dairy farmers. State officials had expressed pleasure at getting that many farmers to vote.

One County farmer who said he voted against the proposal was asked if he had attended any of the information meetings on the proposal. "No, he said. "I was hunting turkey at the time."

The majority of the ballots counted were against the measure, with the official count showing 5,483 against and 4,577 for it. And a greater volume of milk production was represented by votes against. Officially, 50.2 percent of the volume was represented by those voting against the measure.

Under the voting rules, two-thirds approval of those voting was necessary with production represented greater than 50 percent.

Members of the teller committee were Sam B. Williams, Middletown, chairman; Ira Yo-

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Ag Outlook Shows Slight Gain In 1970 Farm Income

For 1969 realized net farm income is running close to a \$16 billion rate, up substantially from \$14.8 billion last year. Livestock prices and cash receipts are about the same.

With slightly larger livestock marketings and continued strong demand in prospect for first half 1970, livestock cash receipts likely will post a small gain over first half 1969. But with a smaller 1969 wheat crop and lower prices for soybeans, market receipts from crops will probably ease lower in early 1970.

Balancing these prospects

against increasing production expenses, realize net farm income in the first half of 1970 may not match the \$15.6 billion rate of January-June 1969.

Business Outlook

The U.S. economy is stepping lively as it enters 1970. Demand pressures continue strong, despite some cooling in defense orders and housing and slower advances in business investment. Wages are still rising briskly, employment remains at high levels, and prices have continued to advance.

Consumption and investment rates have moderated recently. In the new year, Federal Government plans to cut back on defense and construction spending and industry plans less rapid growth in new plant and equipment. Even so, outlays for consumer goods, including food and other farm products, will grow next year, due to rising wages, scheduled income tax reductions, and larger social security payments.

Cattle Feeding Future

Continued growth in store for fed cattle output in the seventies. Beef cow herd will continue to (Continued on Page 8)

Holstein Breeders Announce Cooperative Herd Promotion

The Lancaster County Association has announced plans for a cooperative county-wide advertising and herd promotion program to go into effect as soon as possible. Jay Landis, Association President, said that any interested Holstein breeder should contact him or any of the local directors. The individuals are planning to join together in securing advertising space in the breed magazines and receive special rates for county Association members.

Landis said they hope to get the program underway by the membership kick-off meeting scheduled for Jan. 5. He also said reports from the regular Holstein directors board meetings will be made public through Lancaster Farming. With this increased communication, Landis hopes to improve the effectiveness of the association.

All breeders interested in the herd promotion program with the county association should make it known immediately.

NOTICE

Just like our farm friends, the Lancaster Farming Staff were snow bound too, and with the mailman, taking a day off on Friday, your copy will be reaching you a day or two late. We're sorry for the delay, and we hope by now you have your farm lane open and are back to normal activities.

The '69 Agriculture Census To Be Taken By Mail In Jan.

The 1969 Census of Agriculture has been designed to provide information needed by farmers and those who serve farmers. This census, to be conducted by mail in January 1970, will provide figures by counties, for all farms comparable with data for 1964 and earlier census years.

The definition of a farm, as used in 1959 and 1964, will be the same in the 1969 census. Places of less than 10 acres will be counted as farms if 1969 sales of agricultural products are at least \$250. Places of 10 acres and more will be counted as farms if sales amount to at least \$50.

For the first time in a Census of Agriculture, farmers will be requested to fill out and mail back their reports for the census. In earlier censuses, enumerators called on all farm operators to complete and pick up the report forms. The 1969

blank forms will be mailed out in January 1970. The mail method allows farmers and ranchers to complete the report at their convenience, within a reasonable time period, and to use their records as needed. Since response is required by law, farmers who do not return their reports for the census will be contacted to obtain the missing data.

Data included in the census will cover Total number of farms, acres in farms, average value of land and buildings per farm, cropland harvested, total land irrigated, acreage and production for the major United States crops, and numbers of major kinds of livestock on the farms.

Additional items include: Number of farm operators by age, value of all farm products sold (including forest products), days of off-farm work by (Continued on Page 7)

Farm Calendar

Tuesday, December 30
12:00 noon—4-H Corn and Tobacco Show, Fair and Home Center

7:30 P.M.—Garden Spot Young Farmer Meeting, Vo-Ag Room.

Thursday, Jan. 1
Happy New Year