

PFA President Speaks on Farm Unions

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providing support because "farmers must be recognized as a potent force within the economy of Pennsylvania and the United States."

He said he believed that most of the U.S. Congressmen and two U.S. Senators who represent the farmer know that agriculture deserves recognition at local, state and national levels.



John R. Pitzer
PFA President

and their voting records show it. But, Pitzer said, "Let's face it. We are a minority in this state and every other state."

Terming today's farmer as a "new breed," the PFA head described those who work the soil as coming from generations of independence and hard work.

but have retained respect for honesty and hard work.

"Like virtually every other businessman in our nation, the American farmer has learned to operate on narrower margins of profit — and with virtually no margin for error."

Citrus corn as an example, Pitzer said production here leaped from an average of less than 30 bushels per acre in 1940 to the all time high of 84 bushels in 1969. Wheat, he said, showed a similar jump, doubling in yields since 1940 while soybeans rose over 50 per cent to more than 27 bushels per acre.

Turning to livestock production, the speaker cited statistics showing that meat production rose from 19 billion pounds in 1940 to 35 billion pounds per year today. Dairy cows, he said, give 72 per cent more milk than they did 20 years ago.

Despite the increasing demand, farmers still have been able to provide for the needs, he said, while keeping prices at a reasonable level. "Food purchases have accounted for a smaller and smaller portion of the American worker's paycheck, despite spiraling wages and prices in nearly every area of our economy."

He continued, "Today it takes roughly three million farmers to feed 200 million Americans."

Yet, Pitzer emphasized farmers in this country purchase goods too — \$48 billion in production and household supplies each year — more petroleum products than any other industry.



Clyde Wivell
Chairs Co. Banquet

Forty thousand jobs in the steel industry are provided by the farmer's need for steel, he said.

Farmers spend \$10 billion per year for feed, seed and assorted farm chemicals, and use 32 billion kilowatt hours of electricity — enough to supply Boston, Detroit, Chicago, Baltimore and Washington D.C., he said.

Pitzer cited more reasons why legislators should listen to farmers — statistics that show

three out of every 10 jobs in private industry or business have something to do with agriculture. He said farmers buy 360 million pounds of rubber each year, enough to place tires on nearly eight million cars. Eight million people too are employed in processing, storing, transporting and selling farm products.

But, the PFA president indicated the best reasons legislators should listen is to ease some of the pressure from inflation that has forced farm costs for machinery and needed materials higher. "The farmer has become caught between the jaws of a tightening cost price squeeze," he said.

3,518 Animals Entered In Livestock Exposition

A total of 3,518 animals has been entered in the Pennsylvania Livestock Exposition scheduled for the Farm Show complex Nov. 7-14.

Thomas W. Kelly, exposition manager, said the entries come from 22 states, Canada and Washington, D.C. States entering animals for the first time are Florida, Missouri and Rhode Island. The District of Columbia

also has entries for the first time.

Kelly gave this breakdown of entries: beef cattle, 732; sheep, 1060; swine, 771; horses, 955.

The exposition's competition gets under way Nov. 8 with Quarter horse halter and performance classes.

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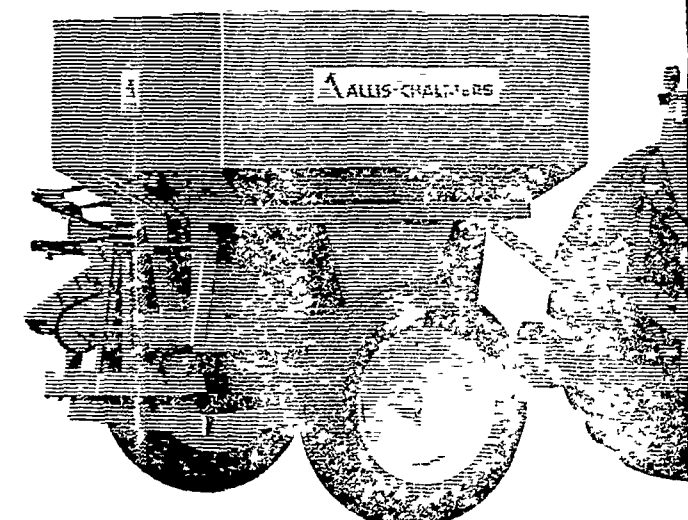
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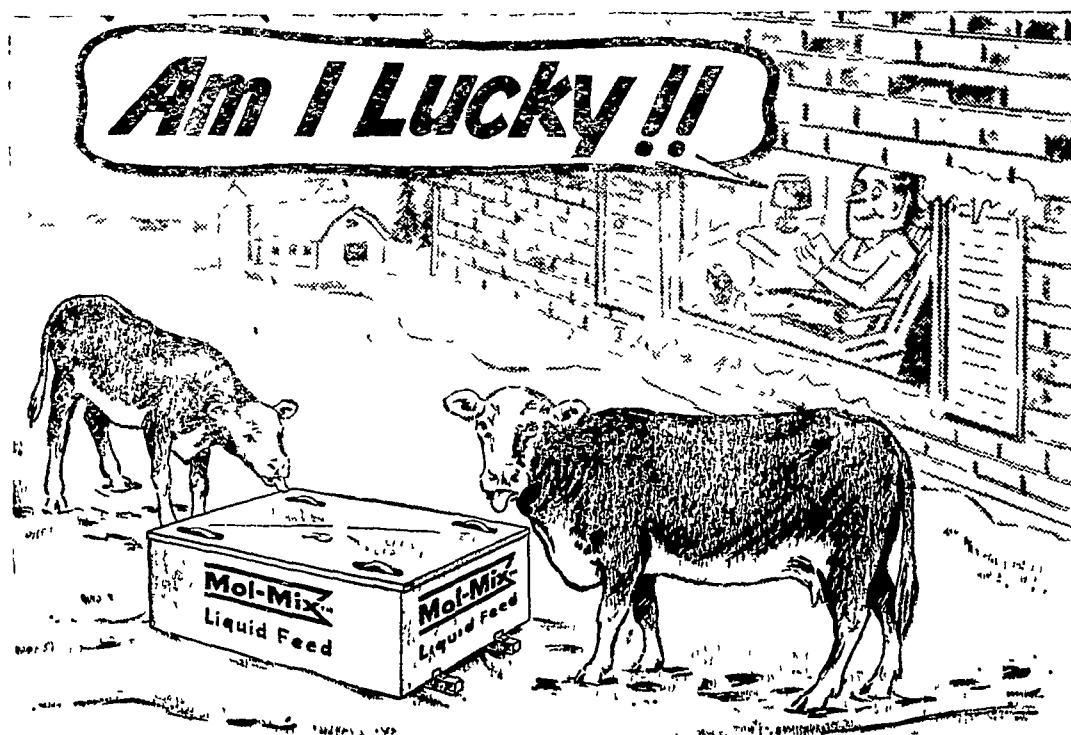
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