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Production Credit

Lancaster Production Credit loans have dropped one per cent to 7 3/4 per cent, effective March 1, according to Carl Brown, Farm Credit Office manager.

Federal Land Bank mortgage loans will remain at the previously announced eight per cent, however.

Brown said that all loans previously written at higher rates are automatically dropped to the lower rates.

Brown noted that interest rates in general continue to decline, but the money market is uncertain. If the rates continue to decline, further interest reductions can be expected in the future, he indicated.

Two Lancaster Co. Men Attend Chicago Conservation Meeting

Two Lancaster County men attended the convention of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) in Chicago in February.

Aaron Stauffer, Ephrata RD1, represented the Lancaster County Soil and Water Conservation District and Amos Funk, Millersville RD1, represented the Pennsylvania Soil and Water commissioner.

The NACD went on record asking for reinstatement of monies removed from the original ACP program. The program is now known as REAP.

Funk also made an appeal for the organization to sponsor fewer resolutions and take more action on those it does sponsor.

Clifford M. Hardin, U.S. secretary of agriculture, spoke to the group.

Hardin said the cooperation and cost sharing between the federal government, local soil and water conservation districts and individual farmers has demonstrated the soundness of the revenue-sharing plan and provides a base of experience for the future.

Hardin also suggested that conservation district officials should seize the current "environmental consensus" as an opportunity to expand its service and programs. There are 15,000 conservation district officials serving as supervisors of 3,000 state chartered local districts on a volunteer basis.

People today are rightfully

worried about broader environmental and ecological problems, Hardin said.

Hardin also spoke of the larger role of soil and water conservation officials in rural development and in counties where urbanization is taking place. He urged them to help formulate rules for proper use of land and to help with standard that include institutional, economic and ecological considerations.

Secretary Hardin said that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is pushing a four-pronged environmental action program aimed at evolving workable land use policy, growth of rural areas, pollution abatement, and recycling of wastes, and upgrading of food and nutritional levels to promote the better health needed for a better social environment.

4-H News

Central Tractor

The fifth Central Area 4-H Tractor Club meeting was held March 2 at Landis Brothers Equipment.

A demonstration was given showing that gas fumes drop instead of rise.

The next meeting will be held at Landis Brothers March 9. Refreshments were served.

Bill Book Reporter

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