

# Annual Swine Producers Banquet Attracts Large Turnout

A large turnout of about 325 persons enjoyed a tasty ham dinner and heard about the "new pork" at the annual banquet of the Lancaster County Swine Producers Association at Blue Ball last Friday.

The Association presented the James Z. Martin Award for outstanding youth work in the swine industry to Roger Lehman, Ronks RD1, a junior at Pequea Valley High School.

The award is presented annually in memory of James Z. Martin, who was killed in a freak farm accident about three years ago. Martin was secretary-treasurer of the County Swine Association and an officer of the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council.

Trophies were presented to winners of the Association's fall carcass show: Glenn Sauder, Manheim RD3, grand champion, and Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, reserve champion.

The Association also presented trophies to top winners (announced in last week's Lancaster Farming) in the recent carcass show. First place trophy went to John Strawbridge and second to Masonic Homes, represented by Jim Horton.

The awards were presented by Warren Leininger of the Swine Association and Max Smith, Lancaster County agricultural agent.

## Farm Legislation Meeting Slated

The Garden Spot Young Farmers monthly meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. Tuesday, March 30 in the Garden Spot High School Agricultural classroom, New Holland.

The speaker will be Chet Heim, Pennsylvania Farmers Association lobbyist, on farm legislation.

He will discuss the latest developments in farm legislation on the state and national scene and how it effects local farmers, as well agriculture across the state.

An invitation is extended to all farmers and other interested persons to attend. Free refreshments will be served.

### Farm Calendar

(Continued from Page 1)  
**Saturday, April 3**  
 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. — Grange Regional Youth Conference, North Coventry Grange Hall, Cedarville, Chester County  
 4 - 8 p.m. — Fulton Grange Annual turkey supper, Grange Hall, Oakryn.

Four new directors were elected as follows: Robert Armstrong, Drumore; Mark Nestleroth, Manheim RD3; Melvin Huber, Lititz RD1, and John Eby Jr., Gordonville.

(Editor's note: We regret that, due to technical difficulties, our photos of the banquet did not turn out.)

In his report, John Henkel, Strasburg RD1, president of the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council, said the pork industry is "an exciting industry" and the programs of the pork producers Council are giving the industry "real impetus."

Henkel particularly noted a steady climb all over the country in the swine check-off program, a voluntary five-cent-per-animal-marketed for the benefit of the industry. Henkel stressed the importance of continuing Pennsylvania as a leader in the check-off program.

Mark Nestleroth, local Swine Association president, emphasized the importance of marketing hogs at a lower weight during the present over supply situation.

Hogs across the country are being marketed at the 235 to 245 pound level. A drop in market weight of at least 10 pounds would be a major help in dropping the pork supply and increasing the price of hogs, Nestleroth said.

John Early of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the speaker noted that farmers in the Garden Spot of the World are "feeling the effects of change" like farmers everywhere. He particularly noted the growth of suburbia and urban sprawl, resulting in decline in the number of farms.

The loss of 30 per cent of the farms in Lancaster County, or a total of 2,400 farms, since

1950 shows "willingness to accept progress without weighing the consequences," Early said.

He stated that too many people today don't recognize that food comes from farms and assume that someone will take care of it. But this is a dangerous assumption, he indicated.

He said the new state administration will ask that farms be taxed on use rather than on speculative value.

Noting that farm prices recently have gone down while food prices have continued to rise, he said the new Secretary of Agriculture has pledged his administration to raise prices for the farmer.

He also said that close cooperation exists between the new secretary, James McHale, the Governor and the legislature and this will result in giving agriculture "the best legislative program it has ever had in the history of the state."

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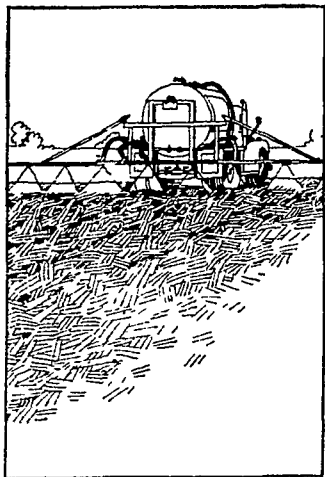
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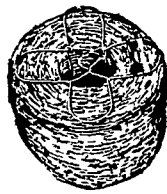


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