

Fair Funds to Benefit Family Farmer through Research

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Jim McHale told members of the Agriculture Research Committee to remember the farmer in considering priorities for research projects for the coming fiscal year.

"Research must benefit the family farmer and the Commonwealth's economy," said McHale. "The practical problems of revitalizing Pennsylvania must be answered. We cannot allow research to propagate merely the pet projects of academic and specialized industrial interests."

McHale stressed that "people and land" are the two most important factors in determining research priorities.

The Secretary's remarks came during the annual meeting of the Agriculture Research Committee last week at the Agriculture Building to select projects for 1972-73 that will be financed by surplus Fair Funds derived from Harness Racing proceeds.

About 17 new projects were proposed, many of which will have to be discarded because of funding limitations. McHale said another meeting will be held sometime before June 30 to decide which projects to pursue.

According to Act 298 of 1967, a portion of monies raised by the State Harness Racing Commission is paid into the Pennsylvania Fair Fund. A surplus of Fair Funds up to \$400,000 can then be disbursed for agricultural

research projects "as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture from the recommendations submitted by a committee appointed by him."

Among committee members are Dr. David McClay, acting dean of the College of Agriculture at Pennsylvania State University and Dr. Mark W. Allam, dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, the two schools at which the bulk of the projects are conducted.

Col. Raymond W. Reisner, comptroller for the Agriculture Department, reported that Fair Fund allocations have diminished because of increasing fair costs. The appropriation for 1971-72 was \$290,459.

Reisner projected that funds available for research at the end of this fiscal year would total \$315,650. Of this about \$100,000 is needed to continue existing approved projects, leaving about \$215,000 for new projects. However, new requests presented totaled almost \$360,000. Penn State introduced seven new projects, and the University of Pennsylvania, six.

Thomas Rowland, the Agriculture Department's planning and research director, issued guidelines for drawing up project proposals. Most importantly, proposals must show how they would benefit the family farmer. Emphasis is on practical research that will revitalize rural Pennsylvania.

McHale, acknowledging recent publicity over the termination of certain projects at Penn State, said the differences between the department and the school "are not that broad" and hoped for cooperation on future projects.

During the past five years, McHale noted, about \$2.5 million has gone for agricultural research projects, yet the farmer's economic condition is still in distress.

He asked that research serve as a stimulus for drawing federal funds into rural Pennsylvania. "In the past Washington has put money into the cities. Now the money must be channeled into rural areas and this department must be the action group to get that money."

McHale told committee members, "The people around

this table might forget that the farmer is getting 77 cents for wheat — and that's a shame."

He also cautioned that use of the Fair Funds might be jeopardized if projects did not show greater benefits for the farmer.

Make Farm Buildings Safer
Farmers should make a safety check of their buildings during early spring, says the Cooperative Extension service Farm and Home Safety Committee of Pennsylvania State University. Stairways should be sound and uncluttered, providing protection around loft doors and feed hay chutes, floors should be repaired and light provided in dangerous corners.

Lanchester Pony Club Plans Annual Horse Show

During March, the Lanchester Pony Club heard a lecture on Polo by Harlan C. Williams.

During his lecture, Williams introduced the Pony Clubbers to proper attire and demonstrated how the equipment is used. He explained the type of horse used and how they are conditioned and trained for this rugged sport.

Members have been busy getting patrons, ads and sponsors for the annual Spring Horse Show to be held May 6 at the John Gibson Farm, Drumore, Pony Club headquarters.

Winners of the poster contest

publicizing the show are Vicki Armstrong, Katherine Read and Lindsey Rodney.

A Junior Hunter show, the Spring Horse Show is open to anyone wishing to participate. Chairmen for the event are Bill Rankin (717-786-3819) and Bob Welk (717-464-3045). It is the Club's annual fund raising event.

The next event on the Pony Club's calendar are Horse Trails, to be held at the headquarters April 16.

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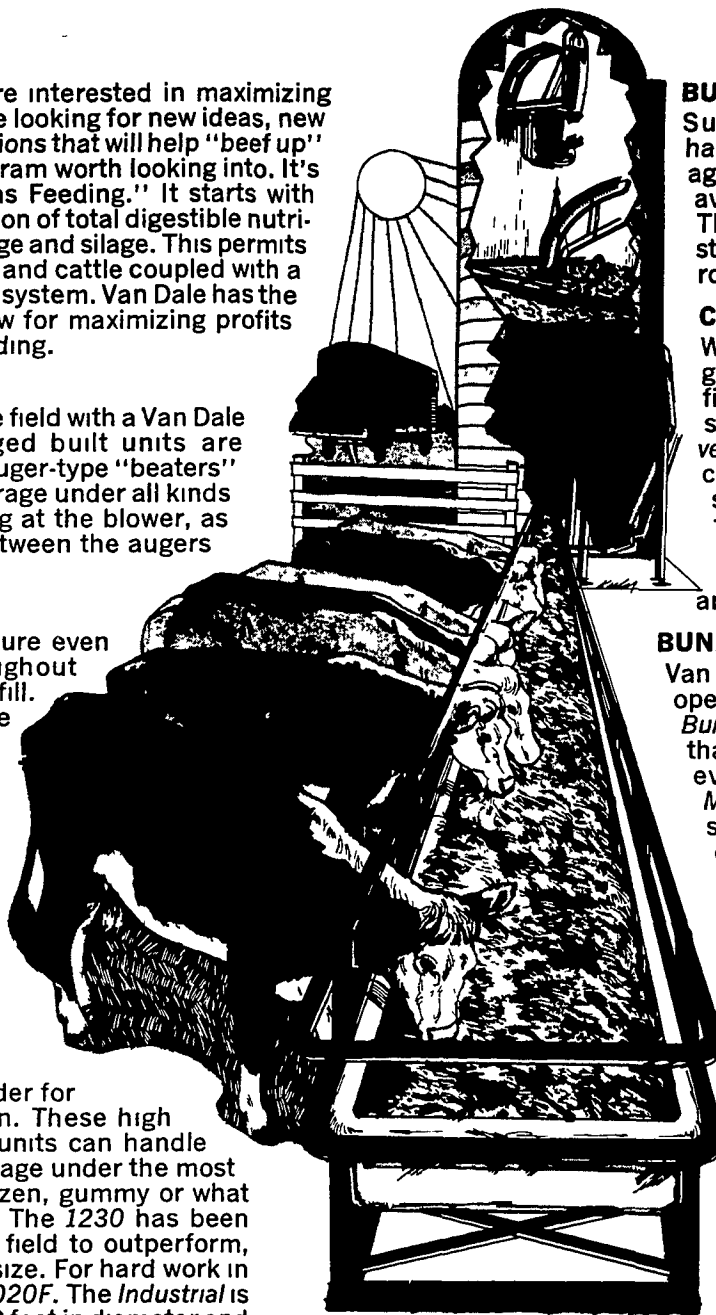
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