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Farmers Union Panel Discusses Headaches Of Borrowing Money

A Farmers Union panel meeting in Quarryville this week said one of the most pressing problems facing the family farm today is the high cost of borrowing money.

It is not always hard to get backing to start a farming enterprise, they maintained, but farm prices and profits are not big enough to meet the high interest rates they must pay conventional lending institutions.

What is needed, they say, is a farm credit system which would make low interest loans available

to farmers just as is now being done for corporations through Industrial Development Authorities. One veteran farmer declared, "It is high time our government extends the family farmers some of the same kind of consideration that is extended large corporations and we intend to work toward that goal."

This was one of several problems selected by the group as "most critical" for family farmers of Pennsylvania. The other problems cited were high property taxes and taxes in

general, the farmer-to-consumer price spread, and a lack of understanding by the public about the small margin of profit made by farmers.

A future meeting, open to the public, is being planned by the group to explore courses of action to do something about the problems. Cox W. Shepherd, a Lincoln University farmer and president of the Lancaster Farmers Union, said that a committee would be appointed to make arrangements for the meeting to be announced at a later date.

Discussion of problems followed remarks by Curt Sor-teberg of the North Dakota Farmers Union who told the group that the problems of Pennsylvania farmers are remarkably similar to those of North Dakota farmers.

The panel, representing Farmers Union members in Lancaster, Chester and York Counties, met at Rhoades Spanish Restaurant in Quarryville. Meeting with the group was Guy Oakman, Mc-Connellsburg, chairman of organization, Pennsylvania Farmers Union.

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