

Lancaster County

Farmers Association

With midsummer begins one of the most important functions of each local and state affiliate of the Farm Bureau Association, that of policy development.

The beginnings of this process in Lancaster County were reported at the last board meeting by William Guhl, chairman of the local policy development committee.

Guhl, who attended a two-day

state policy development conference in Carlisle the last week in June, reported that eight local policy meetings will be scheduled throughout the county the third week of August. Details of times and locations will be disclosed later. All members are urged to keep these dates in mind and to plan to attend the meeting in their vicinity.

Farm property taxes, use of

chemicals, welfare, marketing and bargaining, farm labor, milk marketing, meat inspection are some of the issues each farmer should be concerned with at this time and will receive priority this year. However Guhl expressed disappointment that no real issues with a Lancaster County origin have appeared yet.

At the state meeting a number of viewpoints were discussed on numerous issues. Leland Bull, Penn State, expressed fears that federal takeover of meat inspection will eliminate small processors and endanger the competitive buying that now exists.

George Wolf, Penna. Motor Truck Assn., urged the group to make efforts to assure that monies from increased fuel taxes and truck registrations should go to solving some of the transportation problems of rural areas.

A number of speakers addressed themselves to the milk marketing board controversy. Representatives of the Shapp administration were in attendance.

Earl Newcomer reported on the several county Safemark meetings. He reported that Pennsylvania ranks second of the 39 states in use of the supply program. He reported that Lancaster County had a per member use of \$57 in 1971, and that that figure has been nearly equaled during the first half of 1972.

Extensive flood damage to the Safemark Middletown warehouse was reported during the recent flood but supplies should soon return to normal. Any member

not familiar with the service is invited to investigate its features.

Insurance service is now available around the clock, with the opening of a temporary office for Farm Family Life Ins. Co. at 52 East Main Street, Mount Joy. The Phone is 653-2523. This office serves the two service representatives announced last month and affiliated with a home office at Box 656, Albany, New York.

A new agent, Harry Badorf has also been added to the insurance service in Lancaster County.

Reservations for the annual picnic are due to Mrs. Vivian Stauffer by July 24. The picnic is scheduled for Lampeter Fair Grounds, July 29 with serving beginning at 7 pm. Cost for the pork chop is one dollar. Games, fellowship and door prizes are planned for all ages.

July 19 will be the regional ladies day out in Reading. Ladies from Lancaster County will be chartering a bus. For details contact Mrs. Jesse Wood or Mrs. Helen Wivell.

Nominations for elections to be held at the October annual meeting are now being sought. Members of the nomination committee are Claire Hershey, John Garber and John Harnish.

Guhl also reported that the county association books will be audited by the Farm Business Analysis Service.

Three men were appointed to fill vacancies created by the recent death of James Martin. Jim Shertzler will complete Martin's term on the board. Nathan Stoltzfus will assume duties as treasurer and Carlton Groff will act as secretary.

Pa. Crop Svc. Issues Weather Damage Report

The Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service has issued its first comprehensive survey of damage in the wake of tropical storm Agnes and the season-long bad news worsened to total losses for many of the crops.

Pennsylvania's fruit crop has been in trouble since a killing freeze in mid-January. The floods and torrential rains were the final blow. Late strawberries were spoiled; grape pollinating is slow; scab is reported on apples; most of the sweet cherry crop is lost and the tart cherry harvest is just beginning but the excess moisture has precipitated cracking and rot.

The first cutting of alfalfa was only half completed before the rains came while the second cutting will be affected by the alfalfa weevil. Clover and timothy were only one-fourth cut with the uncut stands overmatured. The crop is poor quality with much of it destined only for bedding purposes.

Except for acreage in low lying flood plains, potatoes will be no worse off than what the cool, wet spring has already detracted. Tobacco transplanting is continuing although a bit behind the norm.

Of the 19 weather stations reporting, only Pittsburgh still shows a deficiency in rainfall since April 1, a scant 13 inches below normal.

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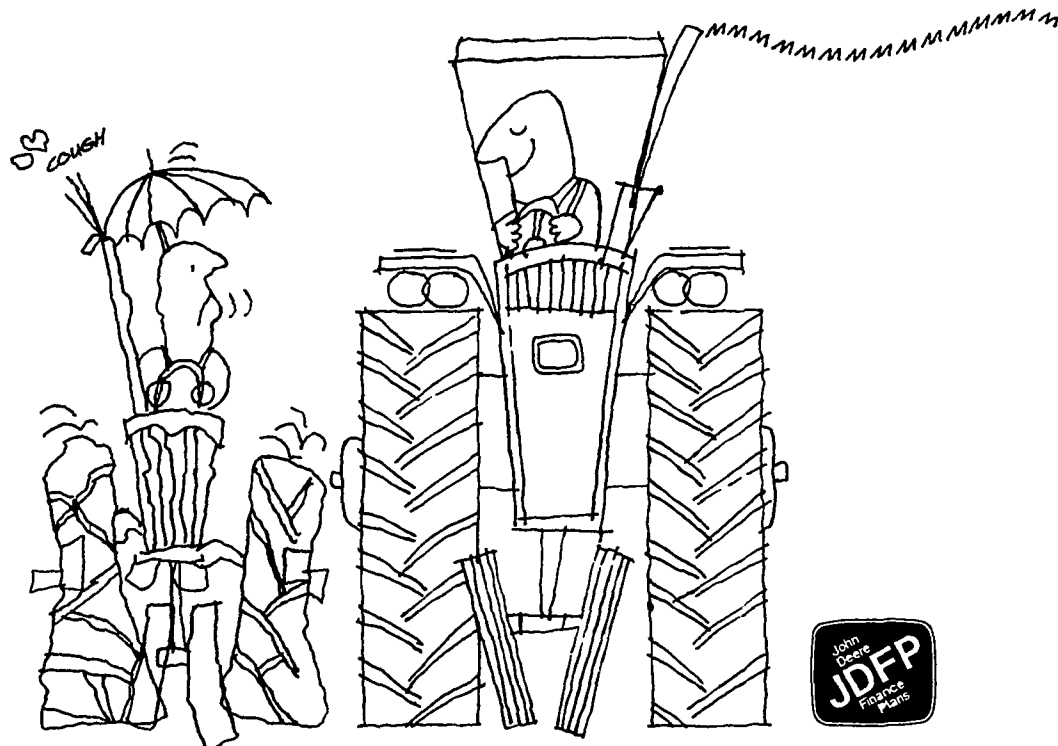
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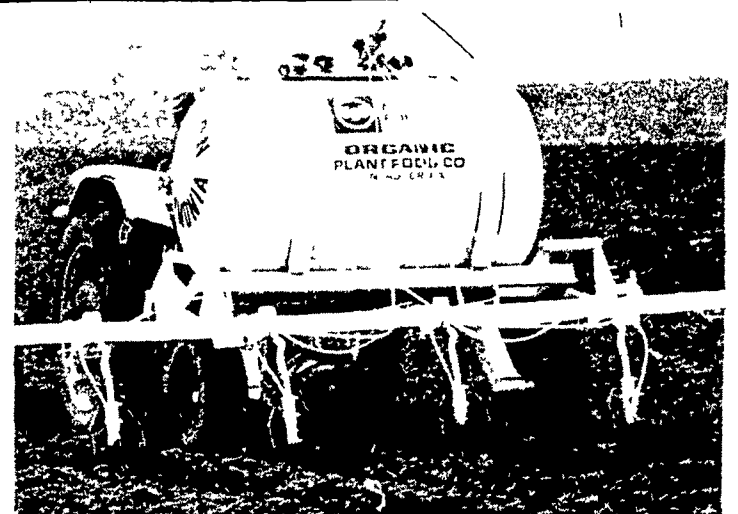
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