

Lancaster County Farmers Kick-Off Meeting

The Lancaster County Farmers Association will hold its annual kick-off meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 2 at the Wither Fire Hall. Reservations are necessary. For more information, contact Jim Shertzer at 393-4732.

Speaker for the evening will be Chet Heim, legislative director for the Pennsylvania Farmers Association at Harrisburg. Heim is a former farmer from Schuylkill County.

The Lancaster County Farmers Association will be soliciting for new members in January through mail-ins and through direct contact. Anyone interested in becoming a member may mail his membership to Nathan Stoltzfus, Gap RD2, 17527, or call him at 442-4291.

During the past year, the Lancaster County Farmers Association sponsored the Farm-

City Week tours, hosted Congressman Eshelman's farm tours in the County, and sent information and newsletters on meetings to members.

State-wide, the Pennsylvania Farmers Association is seeking legislation to exempt silos and some storage units from real estate tax assessments; supporting legislation to assess farmland for tax purposes based on use rather than market value; Emergency Act 515 passed, which has dropped proposed assessments in some of the Southeast counties by more than one-half; was instrumental in reserving the funds from harness racing to ag research, and continuing to work in the fight to preserve sales tax exemptions for farmers.

Farm Bureau nationally is supporting legislation to make it illegal to discriminate against

members of cooperative marketing associations.

Some of the older advantages of membership in the Lancaster County Farmers Association include Farm Business Analysis, a full line of insurance, PFA Supply Company, and marketing programs for fruits and vegetables.

Voting Age Lowered To 14 By Girl Scouts

Teenagers, 14 years of age or older, may now be elected to the Girl Scout National Council, the major direction-setting body of Girl Scouts. The National Council amended the Girl Scout Constitution, lowering the age of voting delegates from the previous 18-year-old minimum, at its 39th national convention recently held in Dallas, Texas.

Evaluation - Important Part of Farm Management

By Jay W. Irwin

Associate County Agent

A great deal of emphasis is placed on forward planning, and sometimes the importance of the evaluation of past performance may be overlooked. It is true that forward planning is an essential part of progressive farm management; however, the study and evaluation of the past is no less important.

Farming is a complex business comprised of several components. To plan ahead requires a knowledge of what has happened in the past. To be able to evaluate past performances, the farm operator needs good records and an analysis of the records. Evaluation makes it possible for a farm operator to:

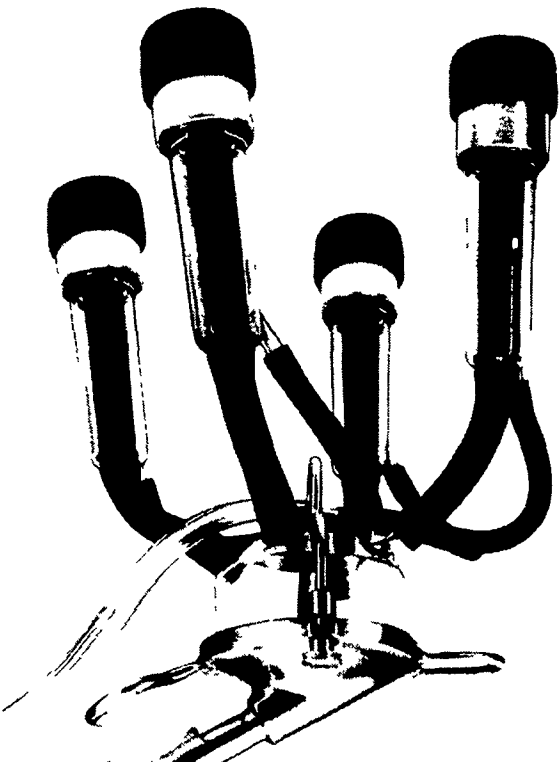
Compare his farm business against aggregated averages for all farms of that type; to establish production and financial checks which can be used to compare the present with future year's accomplishments and thus measure progress.

He should determine what, if any, areas of the business are not contributing to the net farm income. He will also need to identify the cause or source of trouble in enterprises which fall below average levels of production; and determine if the cause is due to natural forces, such as poor weather conditions, or errors in management.

With this knowledge, a farm operator can decide if he needs to change the distribution of hours he spends in direct labor tasks compared to those spent in management decisions.

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Louis Roether

Area Student Gets County Rose Degree

A Lititz RD4 boy has the distinction of becoming the first FFA student at Brownstown Vo-Tech school to receive a degree on the County level as well as being named to one of the county offices for the oncoming year.

Louis Roether, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Roether, 1721 Old Rothsville Road, was named recipient of the Lancaster County Red Rose Degree and was also selected as chaplain of the County FFA Chapter during proceedings at New Holland recently.

Louis is a junior at Warwick High School and is also a student at Brownstown Vo-Tech where he is studying horticulture. He was a member of the Warwick FFA from 1970 to 1972 and was awarded the Star Greenhand degree in 1971. He has held the offices of reporter and sentinel in his local FFA Chapters.

A member of Boy Scout Troop 142, Louis attends St. Paul's E.C. Church in Rothsville and is president of this Sunday School class.

Louis owns and operates his own landscaping and lawn care business as his FFA project. James Kerr, Lititz, is FFA advisor for the Tavoca FFA Chapter at Brownstown Vo-Tech.

Protect cows

When cold winter winds blow, watch for open doors, broken windows and large cracks in the dairy barn, cautions Joe S. Taylor, Extension dairy specialist at The Pennsylvania State University. Drafts chill the udders of high-producing cows and mastitis can result, says Taylor.

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