

# Lancaster Farming

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LANCASTER FARMING Conference Call . . .

## Referendum Pros, Cons

Sometime next week, all Pennsylvania dairymen will be asked in a referendum ballot whether or not they favor an advertising and promotion program for milk. This program would be funded through a five-cent checkoff from every hundred pounds of milk produced by every dairyman in the state.

Ballots will be due in Harrisburg by January 26. If, as they did three years ago, a majority of the dairymen voting reject the checkoff program, the idea will be dropped. If the balloting favors a checkoff, it is expected to become effective around the first of April.

Producers making advertising contributions under any federal order program will be exempt from paying into the proposed state program. They will,

however, be eligible to vote in the referendum. A deduction of 5 cents per hundredweight would be collected by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to finance a promotion program if approved. The detailed use of money collected would be in the hands of an advisory committee of dairymen selected by cooperatives and independent dairy farmers. The money would be collected by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and turned over to the advisory committee.

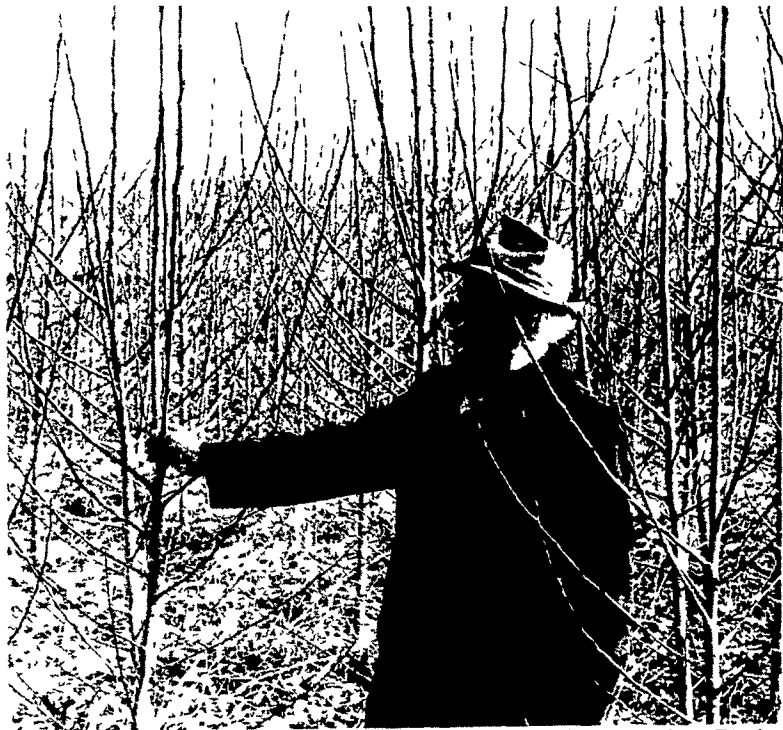
This referendum differs from the usual vote by dairy farmers in that cooperatives may vote its entire membership as a bloc. However, each dairyman will receive a ballot. If the co-op member wishes to cast his ballot individually, it will be deducted from the total votes cast by his

cooperative. The individual vote will take precedent over the organizational ballot.

Mandatory checkoff programs, quite naturally, stir up a lot of controversy. In order to find out what both sides were saying, LANCASTER FARMING arranged a conference call to include spokesmen both for and against a checkoff, and a knowledgeable neutral observer. The conference call was arranged with the considerable help of assistant Lancaster County agent N. Alan Bair.

Arden Tewksbury, Meshoppen, Pa., a member of the Eastern Milk Producers Coop and head of the Dairymen's Freedom Committee, represented the opposition. Representing the pro side of the argument

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Lancaster Farming Photo

Miles Fry is shown admiring one of the thousands of hybrid poplar trees growing on his Ephrata R3 farm. For his work in agriculture and with young people, Fry will receive an Honorary Keystone Farmer degree on January 10 during ceremonies at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

## Miles Fry Believes In Hybrid Poplars

Miles Fry is an innovator, a forward thinker, at an age when many men seek refuge in the past. At 75, Miles Fry has retained the curiosity and the sense of wonder that made him one of Lancaster County's most noted agricultural pioneers. He has retained, too, an active interest in young people and he works with them and for them.

For these reasons and others, Fry will be one of the persons accepting Honorary Keystone Farmer degrees in ceremonies January 10 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

Fry is the world's largest grower of hybrid poplars, and one of the first farmers to seriously cultivate crown vetch. The father-son partnership of Miles and Morton Fry are presently

farming over 300 acres of Ephrata R3 land. Hybrid poplars are growing unbelievably fast on about 50 Fry acres, crown vetch accounts for another 70, hay is grown on 150 acres and 100 acres are planted to corn. The Frys are also feeding 100 head of steers.

Much of the land on which they farm has been in the Fry family for eight generations and the area around the farm is known as Frysville. Many of the farm buildings predate the American

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## Farm Show Issue!

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## James Kreider - Master Farmer

A Lancaster County dairyman, who at age 15 was named the county's champion tomato picker and last year had a herd production of over 1,600,000 pounds of milk, has been named a Master Farmer for 1972.

James G. Kreider, 42, of Route 1, Quarryville, is one of six Commonwealth farmers selected to receive the coveted award sponsored by the Pennsylvania Farmer magazine, Harrisburg, and the Cooperative Extension Service of The Pennsylvania State University.

Formal award presentations will be made January 9 at a Master Farmer luncheon in Harrisburg. Kreider will be inducted into the Pennsylvania Master Farmer's Association whose membership consists of all former award winners. The program was established in 1927.

"We grow 222 acres of corn but the money makers are the cows," Kreider said, "Production this past year averaged 12,949 pounds

of milk and 455 pounds of fat. Milk production costs amounted to \$4.48 per hundred-weight

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LCFA Told . . .

## "Farmers Need Tax Solutions"

"For Pennsylvania farming to survive, we will have to solve the problem of farmland tax assessment," E. Chester Heim told a group of some 100 Lancaster County Farmers Association members on Tuesday night at the Witmer Fire Hall.

Heim is legislative director of the Pennsylvania Farmers Association, of which the LCFA is a part. He was speaking at the county organization's membership drive kickoff banquet. "We'll have to sell the idea of reevaluating land assessments to people who aren't landowners," Heim continued. "We'll have to

point out that if tax problems force farmers to sell out, the people in the towns and the cities will suffer just as much as the farmers. Those who will suffer the most are the people who depend on the farmer for their jobs.

"We must be progressive and aggressive in getting tax laws changed."

Heim went on to talk about the history and the future of the PFA. "There was a time," he said, when the farmer didn't know what he was against until it was too late to be against it. That's

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## Farm Calendar

Monday, January 8

Fulton Grange 66 meeting, Oakryn; Round-table Discussion, "Farming Today" moderated by W. Harold Graybeal.

57th annual Pennsylvania State Farm Show, Harrisburg, January 8 - 12.

Wednesday, January 10

7 p.m. - Garden Spot Young Farmer Welding course, vocation department, Garden Spot High School.

Pennsylvania Poultry Federation annual banquet, Penn Harris Motor Inn, Camp Hill.

National Turkey Federation meeting, Sheraton-Dallas Hotel, Dallas, Texas.

Thursday, January 11

USDA Ornamentals Open House for Growers, Beltsville, Md., January 11 - 12.

Friday, January 12

7 p.m. - Pennsylvania Egg Marketing meeting, Holiday Inn, Ephrata