Tax Solutions

(Continued From Page 1)

why the PFA was organized, to keep farmers up-to-date on legislation that affects them directly."

Heim then stated that important as the PFA legislative program is, he expects marketing activities to become even more important in years to come. "Already," he said, "some PFA members are marketing farm products, mostly fruit, through the association. It's something that we'll see more and more of, because the time is coming when farmers will have to market their own products."

In an informal session after the meeting, Heim talked some more about farm taxes. He said a proposed amendment to the state constitution that would allow farmland to be taxed according to its use could be placed before the voters in the May primary.

Farmers must often pay real estate taxes based on the potential value of their land, rather than its present agricultural use.

Some ex-farmers admit that rising property taxes were decisive in forcing them "off the farm" and agricultural leaders fear a mass exodus from the farm unless the tax situation is brought under control.



"The man who looks backward with worry is likely to bump into trouble ahead."

The bill was introduced in the state House of Representatives Wednesday where it had two dozen sponsors. An identical bill was passed by the General Assembly in 1971. However, proposed constitutional amendments require passage by two consecutive legislatures before they can be presented to the public in a referendum.

If the amendment is approved by both legislators and voters, additional legislation will then be needed to implement the tax changes, according to Heim.

Heim, said legislation that allows land to be assessed on the basis of its use must include a "roll-back" clause.

This means that whenever farmland use changes, taxes based on the new use will be collected for a specified number of preceding years, Heim said.

If a farm is sold for industrial development, back taxes, based on the new and higher rate, could be collected for a period of possibly three or five years, he explained.

This would serve to discourage speculators, Heim said, from buying up farmland indiscriminately.

Heim said the Pennsylvania Farmers' Assn. is urging passage of legislation that will keep the tax base at a rate low enough so "we can afford to farm."

"Mulligan Stew" Theme Of 4-H TV Program

Students in grades four, five and six will again have the opportunity to participate in the 4-H TV Club over WGAL-TV 8, Lancaster. Title of this years presentation will be "Mulligan Stew", which will be a nutrition

The six one-half hour programs start on Saturday, January 27, and conclude on March 3. The time is 12 to 12:30 p.m.

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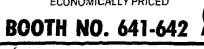
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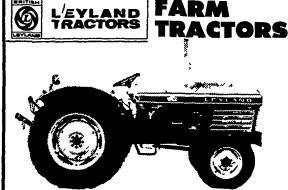
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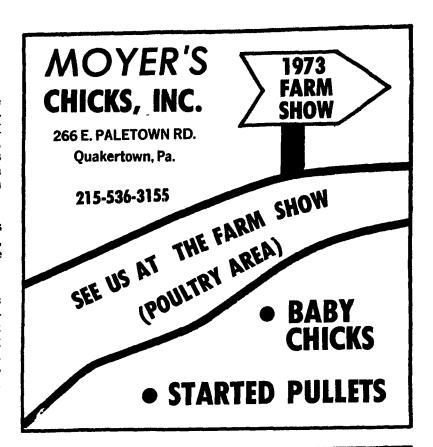
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