

Racing Proceeds Designated To State and County Fairs

Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Jim McHale disclosed that nearly \$1.8 million went to state and county fairs and statewide agricultural organizations from harness racing proceeds in 1973.

McHale made the announcement at an address to the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs 62nd annual convention at the Host Inn here.

McHale said the fairs and organizations received \$1,786,192 compared with \$1,678,826 the previous year.

This increased revenue, McHale said, will enable the department for the first time "to distribute \$100,000 to the fairs this year for capital expenditures."

The breakdown of the total disbursement of \$1,786,192 is:

— \$1,466,403 to 105 fairs; \$99,770 to 52 Future Farmers of America groups; \$167,437 to 67 4-H funds; and \$52,581 to nine statewide organizations that hold agricultural competitions.

The money is used primarily to reimburse fairs and organizations for the premiums they have paid in competitions.

McHale noted that "this was the second year that state and county fair associations in Pennsylvania received their shares of harness racing revenues earlier and easier."

"In 1972," he said, "we started using a new and simplified form which permitted associations to receive 90 percent of their allotment about five months earlier than usual. Associations estimated their returns on the new form and they were paid accordingly. That left us with a ten percent balance to pay the associations following our annual audit."

McHale told his audience that "more than 6 million people attend our fairs annually. Many of these people come from urban areas and know little about farming — about how vital the farmer is to the quality of life of every

citizen. That bridge of understanding can be built at our fairs."

McHale said "the value of your fairs is that they bring farm and city people together and underscore the common bond between the two groups. They can begin to understand each others problems and concerns and perhaps join together in

pushing for government policies that can benefit both groups.

"Farmers have been disappearing rapidly from the American scene — 3 million in the last 30 years — and they know full well they need a coalition with consumer groups if they are to receive favorable legislation from Washington."



Paul J. Boyer, president and general manager of Lancaster Ford Tractor, Inc., turned over a ceremonial spadeful of dirt this week at the site of the firm's new showroom, sales office and service facility at 1655 Rohrerstown Road. The 6000-square-foot facility is scheduled to be finished in May. The firm is presently selling farm and industrial equipment

and lawn and garden tractors at 2166 Willow Street Pike. With Boyer are, left to right, Jay Ober, sales representative for the firm, S. Dale High, a partner in High Realty which is building the facility and John McNamara, Ford's eastern district zone manager for tractor and implement operations.

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