

Rural Development Funding Discussed At Harrisburg Meet

Representatives of seven state agencies, Pennsylvania State University and three federal agencies met Tuesday at the Agriculture Building in Harrisburg for a broad-based effort to implement rural development in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Jim McHale, who chaired the meeting of the Governor's Council on Rural Affairs, said the first job of the state agencies involved is to come up with projects that meet rural development funding criteria of the Farmers Home Administration, FHA.

McHale said that at the next Governor's Council meeting, which is yet to be scheduled, the agencies will recommend specific projects for funding.

Last month Will Erwin, USDA Assistant Secretary for Rural Development, said funds under the federal Rural Development Act of 1972 will be available to local communities to

- Develop community facilities such as sewer, water and transportation.
- Promote development of non-farm businesses in rural areas, providing new job opportunities.
- Provide health, education and other services in rural areas that will result in "people building."
- Develop and improve the environment in rural areas for purposes of recreation and conservation.

State FHA Director Penrose Hallowell said his agency would make available to local rural communities in Pennsylvania \$31 million in loans and \$15 million in grants for rural development. This money will be channeled directly from the federal government to local communities. The state, through the Governor's Council for Rural Development, will assist local communities in submitting plans for their federal loans.

McHale said the Pennsylvania Agriculture Department has initiated a rural transportation project in 23 counties. In the past, the Department operated a health demonstration project in six northern tier counties and the Agricultural Community Recovery Effort (ACRE), a manpower program that rebuilt farms and rural communities damaged by the floods of Hurricane Agnes.

"These projects," said McHale, "can serve as a model for proposals from local communities to secure federal funding." Similar transportation, health and education projects have been undertaken by other state agencies, which also can serve as models.

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Raymond J. Kerstetter told the group. "We must develop income producing projects for a sound economic climate. The outmigration problem must be solved or we won't have bodies to work with in the future."

To do this," he said, "we must make rural Pennsylvania a better place to live for all of the people." He said present rural industries can be retained and new industries attracted by providing:

- Community water and waste disposal systems;
- Adequate, safe and sanitary low and moderate income housing;
- And recreational enterprises for the entire family.

Besides Agriculture other state agencies represented were the Department of Education, the Department of Environmental Resources, the Department of Community Affairs, the Department of Public Welfare, the Office of State Planning and Development and the Department of Labor and Industry.

Federal representatives attending were from the Soil Conservation Service, the Farmers Home Administration, and the Department of Commerce.

Weaver Promotes J. Beach

John A. Beach, RD1 East Earl, has been named to the position of assistant supervisor in the quality assurance department at Victor F. Weaver, Inc., New Holland, Pa.

Beach, a graduate of Lancaster Bible College, joined Weaver in 1971, as a

group leader in the prepared foods division. More recently he held the position of night group leader in the quality assurance department.

In his new post, he will be responsible for supervising the night sanitation inspection and quality assurance inspection programs.

Dear Livestock Farmer;

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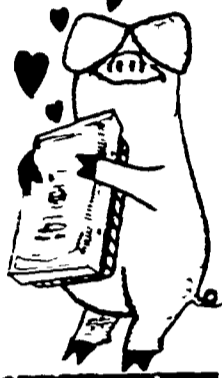
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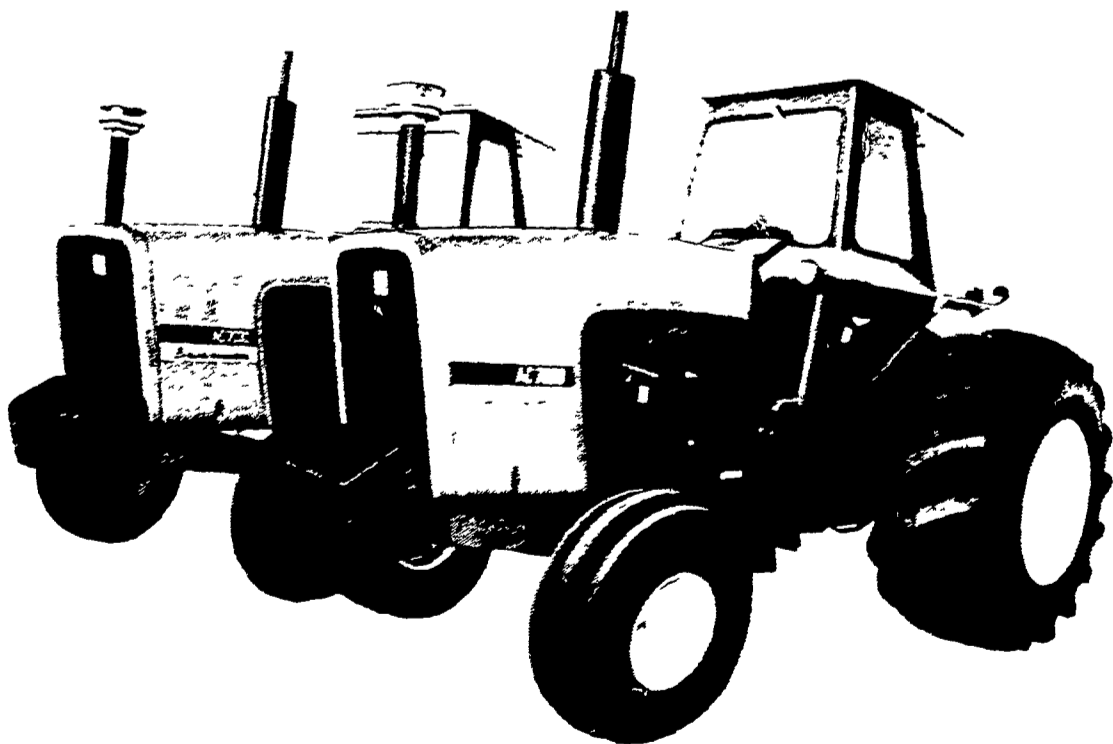


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