

Lancaster Farming

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The world's fastest swimmer will never win any awards for milking cows, according to Lancaster County Dairy Princess Ralene Harbold. Ralene's look says all that needs to be said about the attempt by Olympic gold-medalist Mark Spitz to milk Miss Labor Day, a champion in her own right, although not at swimming. Vocalist Jaye P. Morgan, right, was in charge of comforting the Jersey.

Looking on are Virginia Graham, left, and Suzy Spitz, Mark's wife. Spitz got his introduction to milking last week in Philadelphia on the Mike Douglas Show. The show was taped and will be telecast on March 5, Dairy Day, at 9:00 a.m. over WGAL-TV, Channel 8. For folks attending Dairy Day, there'll be a TV-set in the Farm and Home Center lobby so they can watch.

FARM TRENDS by Dick Wanner

Last year, the Nation's farmers achieved record levels for cash receipts, gross and net farm income, and income per farm from farming. Furthermore, the total income of farm people, including their nonfarm earnings, reached a new high last year.

Some of last year's records included cash receipts from marketings of \$83.4 billion, realized gross of \$90.5 billion, and realized net farm income of \$26.1

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Mark Nestleroth, Manheim, was in Indianapolis this week, along with 99 other young farmers from throughout the nation. The select group of 100 was convened to explain the special credit needs of young farmers to institutional lenders.

Conservation Banquet Set

Lancaster County Conservation District will hold their Annual Banquet on March 14th at 6:30 P.M., at the Good and Plenty Restaurant at Smoketown. Guest speaker will be Congressman Edwin D. Eshleman.

Reservations can be made by calling any of the directors, or Mrs. Nancy J. Burkhart at the District office at 299-5361 or by stopping at the Conservation Office in the Farm and Home Center.

Deadline for reservations will be March 5th.

Hearing Held in Harrisburg . . .

Land Use Assessment Bill In Second Draft

Last May, Pennsylvania voters approved by an overwhelming majority a constitutional amendment which allows farmland to be taxed on the basis of its use rather than on the basis of its potential value as a real estate development. Since passage of the so-called "Clean and Green" amendment, the House Agriculture Committee, chaired by Representative Francis Kennedy, has been working on a bill to implement that mandate from the voters.

House Bill 1056 was presented at three public meetings across the state last year. It ran into many objections, caused mainly by a ten-year roll-back clause. Under the provisions of the first draft, farmers would have been required to sign a contract to keep their lands in farm use for a period of ten years. In return for signing the contract, farmers were to be given a break from local property taxes. If, however, a farmer were to sell his land during the contract period, he'd have been liable to a penalty equal to the amount of the taxes saved, plus interest, or a roll-back.

The new bill calls for a five-year roll-back. It also allows farmers to split-off small parcels of land for family building lots without endangering the tax sheltered status of their other lands.

Testimony given at the hearing on Wednesday centered mostly around the split-off provision and the roll-back clause. Curtin Winsor, president of the Pennsylvania En-

vironmental Council, echoed the feelings of many when he said that the five-year roll-back provision was simply not long enough to discourage land speculation. Winsor also said the split-off

provision would encourage the development of strips along highways, as farmers sought to profit from their road frontage by selling lots to commercial establish-

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250 At Clean Streams Meet

Close to 250 farmers crowded into the Hinkeltown Elementary School on Wednesday night to hear about the Pennsylvania Clean Stream Law and its impact on farmers. Orval Bass, the district conservationist for Lancaster County, told the group that all farms in Pennsylvania would be required to have conservation plans for their farms by July 1, 1977. He said of the 6000 farms in the county, only 1500 have plans, and of those at least half should be rewritten due to changing farm operations.

Bass asked for a show of hands to see how many of those present had plans for their farms. There were only about 15. "To get started on a plan," Bass told the group, "tell us what you're doing, tell us what kind of farm operation you've got. We'll determine your soil loss figures, then we'll tell you what we think can be done to control your losses. Our recommendations will consist of several alternatives, and you can choose the one that best suits the way you want to farm."

Farmers who have plans

and are working to implement them, will be exempt from the Clean Streams Law in 1977, Bass noted. He also said that it takes anywhere from two to ten years to implement a plan. "Right now," the conservationist said, "our office has a backlog of about 300 plans. We used to get five requests a month for assistance. Now we get anywhere from 15 to 40."

To get a plan, farmers must contact the conservation district at the Farm and Home Center. Bass said that all requests

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Nestleroth Helps Examine . . .

Young Farmer Credit Needs

Special to Lancaster Farming

by
Frank Salzarolo
Indianapolis News

A hand-picked group of 100 young farmers, including Lancaster County's own Mark F. Nestleroth, a swine breeder from Manheim, gave the Farm Credit Systems some solid advice this week on the financial needs of young farmers.

And the major need is credit . . . credit to buy land and equipment, credit to operate.

It all came out at a three-day conference in Indianapolis, Ind., ending Wednesday, called by the nationwide Farm Credit System. Nestleroth and the other young farmers attending were invited to the conference by the Farm Credit banks and by major farm organizations.

Governor E. A. Jaenke, Farm Credit Administration, called it a "listening conference," and that is what it was - the young farmers talked and the lenders listened.

There were three major discussion topics during the conference:

1. The financial and related needs of young farmers.
2. Concerns of young farmers about farming, and

preferred solutions.

3. How lenders can help young farmers build successful farming operations.

The 100 conferees were divided into 10 discussion groups and each group held talk sessions on each of the three discussion topics.

Later, the conclusions reached by each group were summarized at a general session involving the young farmers and the money lenders.

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz told the young farmers that farming today calls for the highest degree of dedication, the highest level of business management, and the widest range of technical capacity of any single job category in the economy.

"A generation ago, it was said that, if you cannot do anything else, you can farm. Today, if you cannot farm, you had better do something else," Butz said.

He said the biggest limiting factor for the young farmer today is capital - enough to assemble the land required to use his labor efficiently, plus enough machinery and livestock to utilize his productivity and management ability.

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