

# Lancaster Farming

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Congressman Edwin D. Eshelman, left, discussed farm problems with a group of Lancaster County farmers in his Washington office on Wednesday.

Shown with the Congressman, left to right are John Myer, Ivan Yost and Donald Hershey. Two of Eshelman's assistants are at the far right.

## FARM TRENDS

by Dick Wanner

### JAPAN: A GROWING MARKET FOR HIGH QUALITY U.S. BEEF

Japan a rising market for U.S. beef? You better believe it! While Australia has been and still is, Japan's major supplier of beef, demand for the higher priced cuts has suddenly given the U.S. a growing share of the market.

As a result, U.S. exports of beef to Japan -- only 97 metric tons in 1969 and 597 tons in 1972 -- rose to 11,000 tons last year and are expected to hit 40,000 tons this year! That'd be over 20 pct. of the market.

Australia exported 106,000 tons of beef to Japan last year, is expected to boost that total to 125,000 tons this year. And, the prices: Wow! Australian beef was selling at from \$1.69 to \$1.98 per pound retail in Japan last November, but U.S. beef was going from \$2.92 (for brisket) to \$6.49 per pound (for tenderloin) there that month.

Japan does have domestic beef output, but production totaled only 295,000 tons in 1972, was off to 226,000 tons last year, when farmers, with Government encouragement, held back heifers for breeding. Domestic prices hit a record high there last

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## Eshelman Addresses Conservation Banquet

Congressman Edwin D. Eshelman spent his share of time this week with Lancaster County farmers. On Wednesday, he hosted a contingent of 10 countians in his Washington office. They were in the nation's capitol to take part in the Pennsylvania Farmers Association annual Congressional Meeting. Then on Thursday evening, Eshelman was the speaker at the annual Lancaster County Conservation Banquet.

On both occasions, the Congressman talked at length about Watergate and energy. On Thursday evening he said, "When our gasoline prices become competitive with the rest of the world, we'll have enough

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## At PFA Meeting . . .

# Sen. Schweiker Hits Dirty Dairy Imports

"Imported dairy products should meet the same standards we set for domestic products," U.S. Senator Richard Schweiker told a Pennsylvania Farmers Association meeting in Washington on Wednesday night. Schweiker said the Senate was presently considering a bill which would make inspection of foreign products mandatory.

The U. S. milk industry has been up in arms recently about dairy imports, most of which come from European Economic Community countries. EEC governments subsidize their dairy farmers, often to the tune of 30-cents or more per hundredweight. This means they can ship dairy products to this country, where they're sold cheaply enough to undercut U.S. pricing mechanisms, an important factor in holding farmers' milk checks down.

Not only is foreign product cheaper, it's also of considerably lower quality. They're so low in quality, in fact, that almost all imported cheese and milk powder are used in

manufactured products - candy, pizza, etc. - rather than for direct consumption. Some 15 percent of all dairy imports are checked for quality, and about one-tenth of all those samples checked are contaminated with things like rat excrement, rodent hairs and insecticides. One-tenth of the 85 percent that isn't checked presumably has the same amount of contamination.

Senator Schweiker said the Senate bill is aimed at protecting both farmers and

consumers. It protects consumers by giving them more assurance of quality products, and farmers are protected by not having to compete with low-quality dairy imports. The bill would not attempt to limit the quantity of imports.

Also addressing the group was Pennsylvania's other senator, Hugh Scott. Both Schweiker and Scott said they're trying to get more gasoline for Pennsylvania from federal energy chief

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# Land Use Tax Bill Meeting Held Here

Nearly 100 persons from Lancaster and nearby counties attended a public affairs seminar Wednesday at the Farm and Home Center to study the new draft of the proposed Farm Land Assessment Act, H.B. 1056. The program was arranged by the Farm and Home Foundation.

The proposed legislation will allow farmland to be assessed according to its use and not its market value. When land use changes there will be a five year roll-back, making farmers liable to a penalty equal to the amount of taxes saved plus interest. Under the bill a farmer will be able to split off parcels of land for building lots without

losing the tax advantage on the rest of his land.

Interest was high, and questions after the formal presentation showed that most of those present supported the provisions of the bill, with just a few reservations about some of the effects of the bill.

Panel Moderator Robert Williams, managing editor of Pennsylvania Farmer, set the tone of the meeting, calling preservation of farmland the key issue of 1974.

Williams said, "The question is, just how long can we keep cementing over farm land and still eat or even still breathe?" With

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## Conservation Case History No. 4 . . .

# Conservation Halves Soil Loss

"We can't do anything about the rain God sends us, but we can sure control it after it gets here," is the way John Yost sums up his approach to conservation farming. Yost got a conservation plan for his Kinzer RD1 farm in the fall of 1968, and started putting it into practice the following year. He was named outstanding cooperater of the year by the Lancaster County Conservation District at that group's annual meeting.

Two waterways were installed in 1969, 4500-feet of diversion terraces in 1970, another waterway and 4000-feet of terraces in 1971, and 3000-feet of terraces in 1972. Before the land was terraced, Yost said he had small gullies every year, but he kept them closed by plowing them shut. Gullies are no longer a problem on his 100 acres, but that is one of the minor benefits Yost has realized from his conservation work.

"I was losing eight tons of topsoil every year from every acre," Yost said. "That's faster than I build topsoil on this

farm, so eventually I would have run out. I couldn't afford not to put in conservation practices."

Yost's allowable soil loss, he was told by Orval Bass of the Lancaster County Soil and Conservation Service, is about four tons per year. Even under optimum conditions, some soil will be taken away from any farmland by wind and rain. The proper conservation practices can insure that the losses don't eventually wreck a farm's worth.

Yost said that his eyes were opened to the magnitude of his soil loss during a land management course conducted by Donald Robinson, advisor for the Garden Spot Young Farmer Association, of which Yost is a member. "I can't take full credit for my conservation practices," he noted. "Don Robinson really started me thinking. Titus Musser, the contractor who did my terraces, was a big help, too."

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John Yost, this year's Outstanding Conservation Cooperater, checking out one of his terraces on snowy day last month.