

Lancaster Farming

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\$2.00 Per Year



Richard Godshalk, president of A. H. Hoffman Seeds, Inc., stands before a mountainous pile of his favorite product. The local seed company celebrates its 75th year of business this year.

Local Seed Firm Observes 75th Yr.

One of Lancaster County's oldest agribusiness firms celebrates its 75th anniversary this year. A. H. Hoffman Seeds came into being in 1899 when its founder, Amos Hoffman, began selling Harvest King, a wheat variety, to his friends and neighbors around Landisville. From a small beginning - Hoffman's first store of seed came from 10 acres he'd planted himself - the company has grown to the point where it now employs some 50 full-time people and over 400 farmer salesmen. These

salesmen cover a 13-state area in the Northeast, from Richmond to Maine. The company has the franchise for Funk's Hybrid corn in this area, and seed corn now accounts for the bulk of the company's sales volume. The primary distribution point for Hoffman products is still in Landisville, and sales are heaviest in a 100-mile circle around Lancaster County. In the company's early years, the bulk of the selling job was done by a seed catalog, rather than farmer salesmen. This

[Continued on Page 8]

Lehi Loses Court Suit, Axes Allison

Dairymen in Federal Milk Marketing Order 4 won a court battle Thursday afternoon which will add at least 20-cents and perhaps 40-cents to the hundredweight price of Class 2 milk going into manufactured products other than butter and milk powder. The decision by a federal judge in Washington coincided almost to the hour with the firing of Richard Allison, president and general manager of Lehi Valley Farmers Cooperative, headquartered in Allentown. Allison's ouster and the court decision weren't directly related, but both incidents capped a series of events which could mean hard times ahead for the Lehi Coop. Andrew Mangum took over as acting president and general manager Thursday afternoon with a terse announcement from the board of directors saying that Allison's employment had been terminated because of "policy differences".

Lehi officials weren't talking much to the press this week, and according to at least one person who attended their annual meeting on Thursday, they weren't saying much to their own members, either. "I came back from that meeting knowing less than I did before I went," one Lehi member complained. The milk price boost was ordered effective from April through July of this year by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Where Class 2 milk prices had been based either on the Minnesota-Wisconsin price series or the so-called "butter powder snubber" formula, the price will now be based solely on the M-W series. That means all manufacturing milk, except for that going into butter and powder, will be based on the average price paid by processing plants in Minnesota and Wisconsin for manufacturing grade milk. Consumer demands for cheese had driven the M-W price up, while massive

imports of powder and butter had held the butter powder price down. In February, therefore, manufacturing milk priced on the butter powder basis was selling for as much as \$1.19 per hundredweight lower than the M-W price. And manufacturing plants outside of Minnesota and Wisconsin were permitted to pay either the M-W price or the butter powder price, whichever was lower. In February, dairy cooperatives in the East and Midwest requested an emergency hearing with market administrators. They were granted the hearing, presented their amendments and voted most of their memberships in favor of dropping the butter powder snubber formula. The change was approved by USDA and became effective April 1. Lehi directors, though, took the decision to court, seeking an injunction against the price increase. The move astonished some

dairy farmers, but knowledgeable sources within the dairy industry

[Continued on Page 22]

Green Dragon Sets March of Dimes Auction

The annual public sale and auction to benefit the Lancaster County March of Dimes has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, at the Green Dragon Farmers Market and Auction, Rt. 222 north of Ephrata.

The sale will begin at 6 p.m. in the heated cow barn, with seats available. Donations will be accepted until the time of sale, according to John E. Martin, chairman, who is assisted by Adam H. Zimmerman as co-chairman.

Articles to be offered will include quilts, household items, furniture, livestock, cakes, pies, poultry, clothing, canned goods, tools, farm machinery, smoked meats, candy and other merchandise "too numerous to mention," as the auctioneers say.

The full complement of auctioneers on duty will include H.H. Leid, Benjamin Weaver, T. Glenn Horst, Chester Long, John E. Martin, William Wentling, John H. Fry, Vaul E. Martin, Randal Kline and Nevin Martin.

All proceeds will go to the county organization for polio, birth defects and cancer research.

In This Issue

Markets	2-4
Sale Register	52
Farmers Almanac	6
Classified Ads	26
Editorials	10
Homestead Notes	34
Home on the Range	38
Organic Living	14
Thoughts in Passing	33
Leb. Co. Dairy Princess	40
E-town FFA	40
Phoebe Ruth Honored	46
4-H News	43
Pa. Holstein Show	24
REAP Funds	16

FARM TRENDS by Dick Wanner

MILK: MARCH OUTPUT BELOW YEAR AGO

U.S. milk production, estimated at 9.933 billion (9 billion, 993 million) lbs. during March, up sharply (14 pct.) from February, but still 3 pct. below that of March 1973.

Reason for the cutback: Lower cow numbers. While output per cow, at 887 lbs. for the month, was up 1 lb. [Continued on Page 22]

Fulton Grange No. 66 . . .

A Century of Service

Over a century of community service will be commemorated on Saturday, May 4, when Fulton Grange No. 66 celebrates its 100th anniversary. Since 1874, the Grangers have been an important factor in the rural life of Southern Lancaster County.

Fulton Grange had its genesis in casual conversation on the porch of Penn Hill Friends Meeting House. These conversations led eventually to the first meeting, on January 2, 1874. At that meeting, 29 charter members were registered, and they named James G. McSparran their first Grange Master. Also at that

meeting, the group decided on the name Fulton Grange, in honor of famed inventor Robert Fulton who was born near Wakefield.

From its inception, according to an official 100th anniversary history, the Grange has been not just a farm business organization but a force for all the things that improve the lives of those who till the soil.

They've supported good education, good roads, parcel post and rural mail delivery, a bridge over the Susquehanna River at Holtwood and, of course, sensible legislation in both Harrisburg and Washington. Early discussions were

centered on group purchases through the Keystone Grange Exchange. Fulton Grange joined that group in 1916 so members could get good prices on such things as coal, bran, cottonseed meal and fertilizer. These were delivered in carload lots at the Peach Bottom station. Also bought in smaller lots were buckwheat flour, sugar, salt, seeds and many other kitchen articles.

As time permitted, the Grangers devoted themselves to important topics of the day. They opposed the sale of colored oleo, in those early years. They wanted to know how to improve public

[Continued on Page 20]



Fairfield IOOF Hall where Fulton Grange met April 1874 - July 1951.