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Lancaster Farming

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Lancaster Farming Special Report

Financing Big Question on Lancaster Co. Fair

Officials of community fairs in Lancaster County are eyeing the proposed new Lancaster County Fair now under discussion with a "wait and see" attitude, looking toward Monday night's meeting at the Farm and Home Center to give them answers to three major questions:

1. How much is it going to cost to build?
2. Where is the money going to come from?
3. And is it going to jeopardize the local community fairs?

Meanwhile, although most regular exhibitors from the county who were interviewed this week by Lancaster Farming said they were "interested" in the proposed county fair, many also are apparently concerned about whether the grounds would be centrally located, and whether or not it would mean elimination of local fairs.

County agricultural agent Max Smith sent letters to agricultural leaders in the county, including officers of various farm and home

associations and representatives from all existing Community Farm Show groups, inviting them to a public meeting Monday at 8 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster to discuss the pro's and con's of a county fair.

Smith said this week that the county event is a movement from some farm show officials and agricultural leaders in the county. He declined to say what actual groups or individuals had started the ball rolling for Monday's

meeting.

Will Speak

Lee Henney, a representative from the Pennsylvania State Fair Funds Service, will be speaking at the meeting, Smith said, as well as Wayne Kelly from the Penn State Extension Service at Penn State, who will explain advantages and disadvantages of some of the farm shows.

Reportedly, a number of ag teachers in the county, are strongly in favor of a county fair.

Henry Givler, area coordinator for FFA in Southeastern Pennsylvania, said this week that FFA teachers have discussed the fair and "a lot of them" would like to see it, particularly those from areas that have no fairs.

August Birchler, president of the Lancaster County Vocational Agricultural Teachers, told Lancaster Farming Friday morning that his group had voted earlier to support a county fair with the idea that it would be an agricultural event and not a midway-type affair. Birchler said this support was based on the idea that a county fair would not necessarily mean that community fairs would go out of existence, that they believed both types could be run in the county.

Financing

Stanley Musselman, vice president and agricultural loan officer of the National Central Bank, Lancaster, and a former president of the Solanco Fair Board, told Lancaster Farming that financing will be the first problem the county will have to face for a county fair, since adequate land for fairgrounds and parking would have to be acquired.

The county will have to decide whether a county fair would serve a useful agricultural purpose without becoming just another carnival, and at the same time do a better job than the

local fairs that now exist, he said.

The local fairs are doing a "pretty good job," and most are growing, Musselman said, adding that the Pennsylvania Farm Show takes care of most of what a county fair would take care of.

He also said the county will face a big problem in getting people to assume responsibility on an undertaking of this type, especially if they are also involved with local fairs in their own communities.

While he did not voice a stand either for or against the county fair, he indicated

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FFA Week Award Winners

State FFA Week drew to a close on Thursday afternoon at Penn State. Many of the FFA members from Lancaster County and the surrounding areas brought home awards and medals. Lancaster and Lebanon Counties dominated the Land Judging Contest with Lancaster members capturing six Gold Medals, two Silver, three Bronze and one Honorable Mention.

Lebanon County students received one Gold Medal, two Bronze.

James Bucher, Charles Coates and Steve Holt all from Lancaster County, will represent Pennsylvania at the National Land Judging

Contest in Oklahoma. Individual and team competition award placings are as follows.

Agricultural Mechanization
John Swartzentruber, Gold, O. J. Roberts, Chester County. John will represent Pennsylvania at the National FFA contest in Kansas.

Michael Randall, Bronze, O. J. Roberts, Chester County. Michael will represent Pennsylvania at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Agricultural Salesmanship
Alyce Dery, Gold, Governor Mifflin, Berks County. Alyce will represent Pennsylvania at the National

FFA contest in Kansas. William Abrams, Gold Governor Mifflin, Berks County.

Agronomy
Louis Jordan, Gold Red Lion, York County.
Dean Weiler, Honorable Mention, Garden Spot, Lancaster County.

Parliamentary Procedure Team

Northern Lebanon High School - 1st Place - Glen Ulrich; Dennis Wenger, Shawn Hernly, Arthur Sweinhart, Chester Michael, Fred Bold, Cliff Berger, and Larry Gross. The team will receive money for a trip.

2nd Place - Kennard-Dale
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FARM TRENDS by Dick Wanner

County Fair — Are You Pro or Con?

If you have strong feelings for or against a Lancaster county fair, you may not get a chance to voice your opinion after Monday night's meeting at 8:00 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center. The meeting could be lively and interesting, with farm and community leaders expressing varying views on the subject.

The Newest "Exotic" Cattle Breed

First came the Charolais to threaten the entrenched status of the Hereford and Angus in America, and now we're hearing from the promoters

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Meet the Man Who Wants McHale's Job

Jack Kooker wants to help Pennsylvania farmers, especially dairymen. He wants to be Pennsylvania's next secretary of agriculture, the post now held by the controversial James A. McHale. Kooker says he'll sell his 300-acre Berks County farm, if he has to, to do a good job as secretary of agriculture.

"I've already talked to Governor Shapp about replacing McHale," Kooker told Lancaster Farming one morning last week in the office of his farm home near Blandon. "I don't think McHale is doing enough for Pennsylvania farmers. He's in Washington a lot, but he's not talking about our problems. He's more interested in knocking Earl Butz than he is in solving our problems."

"What has McHale done for the price of milk?

Nothing. The Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board held price hearings last November and December, and we still don't know whether or not they're going to raise the price to farmers.

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If I were secretary, I'd try to do something about milk prices and other farm income. And I'd try to do something about dairy imports, too."

Kooker said he currently spends an hour or more every day on the phone trying to do something about milk prices. He is chairman of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Advisory Council, a post to which he was appointed by none other than Jim McHale. The Milk Advisory Council is one of about 20 similar commodity councils appointed by the secretary to advise him on policy matters relating to those commodities. Some other councils, for example, deal with roadside farm markets, apples, mushrooms and so forth.

It's said that politics makes strange bedfellows, a truism nowhere more apt

than in the council which Kooker heads. Once a month, a diverse group representing every shade of dairy opinion gather in Harrisburg to ponder the milk market and to make recommendations to Jim McHale and the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board. Independent producers, jugglers, cooperative members, and farm organizations all are represented on the board. The organizations include the Pennsylvania arms of NFO, NFU, Farm Bureau and the Grange.

Kooker was one of the prime backers last year of a move to get an advertising checkoff program started up among independent Pennsylvania dairymen. Farmers defeated the referendum, but Kooker's efforts had made him well-known in

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"I want Jim McHale's job," says Berks County dairyman Jack Kooker. Kooker has already told Governor Shapp he wants to be Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, and he's busily spreading the word of his intentions.