

# Ag Leaders Queried On Co. Fair Feelings

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 survey proves negative, the project will likely be dropped.

The recipients of the questionnaire are asked first if their organizations would support a county fair, and whether or not they feel it should be in addition to, or instead of, the six community fairs now held in the county. They are also probed on their preferences for locations, timing, financing, and how many of their members would be willing to donate time to a county fair.

Because of a general consensus at the June meeting, Smith says in the questionnaire that a carnival-type midway would be unwelcome, but he asks the farm leaders if their organizations would accept lunch stands, children's rides and other wholesome entertainment.

Also listed are 13 pros and cons for a county fair, as determined by the three-member steering committee.

Those points listed favoring a county farm show are:

- Lancaster County ranks first in Pennsylvania and 12th in the United States and needs a county fair to display this agricultural rating.

- More non-farm people would be attracted by the larger number of exhibits.

- A better opportunity would be provided to display farm products, educational activities and other services.

- Such a fair could serve as an added tourist attraction for the area.

- A county fair would provide an opportunity to select county winners.

- Residents in those communities which don't hold farm shows would have an opportunity to participate.

- Some commercial concerns prefer to participate in a county fair rather than a community farm show.

Those points against a county fair are listed as follows:

- With six community fairs held yearly in Lancaster County, a county show is not needed.

- There are no available facilities for a county fair.

- Such a fair would be costly and require extensive financing.

- There is a general objection to the undesirable midway which is necessary to make such a fair financially feasible.

- The majority of the present community farm show committee people "may" not be willing to participate in a county fair.

- The former Lancaster County Fair, held last in the early 1930's, folded because of the undesirable midway and lack of agricultural support.

The questionnaire also provides for comment concerning a possible restructuring of the six community farm shows even if a county show is not adopted.

The survey asks if meetings should be held in an attempt to develop uniform objectives and themes for the six farm shows.

The three-member steering committee is comprised of J. Mark Bushong, Columbia RD2, president of the Lancaster County Agricultural Extension Service; Kenneth Meck, Willow Street, president of the West Lampeter Community Fair; and Mark Nestleroth, Manheim RD3, president of the Manheim Farm Show.

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