

# Cong. Ed Eshleman Tours Area Farms

Congressman Edwin D. Eshleman toured Lancaster County farms on Monday of this week to talk to area farmers. He discussed national farm and economic policy, and listened to the suggestions and views of the farmers. This reporter joined the party in the livingroom of the Noah Wenger farmhouse at Stevens R1.

The Congressman first addressed himself to the emergency farm bill passed recently by both the House and the Senate. The two bodies passed differing versions of the bill which is now in a joint conference committee and due to be reconsidered in the next few weeks.

One of the bill's key features approved by both houses is for target prices for major farm commodities. The target price for wheat, if the bill is enacted into law, will be \$3.25 per bushel. The corn target price would be \$2.25 per bushel, and for

cotton 48 cents per pound. "The target prices for corn and wheat don't bother me that much," Eshleman said, "but the cotton price is way too high. At 48 cents a pound, cotton growers will be encouraged to grow for the government instead of the market, and some estimates say that the cotton subsidy alone will cost half a billion dollars."

Eshleman pointed out that he voted against the farm bill because it involves new spending. "On any bill, my first question is whether or not we can afford it, and if we can't, then I'll automatically vote no. I don't think we can afford this farm bill. If we pass it, I've heard that it will be costing the U.S. government \$5 billion in payments, storage and administration by 1977."

Speaking on the general economy, Eshleman said he feels the nation will get a three to six-month shot in the arm from tax cuts and rebates, but he's worried

about the \$75 billion deficit projected for the fiscal year ending in July, and the \$100 billion deficit expected by the end of next year. "When I started in the Congress eight years ago, the whole federal budget was less than \$100 billion," he pointed out.

Noah Wenger, the host, told the Congressman's party that he feels farmers have made a tremendous contribution to the economy, a fact borne out by the vastly increased exports of the past few years. "If industry could have matched the production increases that farmers have experienced, maybe we wouldn't be in so much trouble now," Wenger said.

Wenger also pointed out that the cost of growing food keeps going up, and one of the biggest factors in years

to come will be the farmer's expense in keeping the environment clean. "There's only one way farmers can get back the money they spend on environmental measures, and that's to get more for the food they grow," he said.

Eshleman noted that this was a valid point, but said that farm groups should spend more time telling their story to urban legislators. "No legislator is an expert in everything, and I think if you'd educate some of our city lawmakers they might understand farm problems better and be a little more responsive."

One legislative area Eshleman feels the Congress may move on soon is the Capper-Volstead act which

exempts farm cooperatives from anti-trust legislation. "There could be some action against cooperatives this year," he said. "I'm sure they wouldn't be made illegal, but I do think we might see some changes. The consensus of opinion seems to be that it's okay for co-ops to help farmers get supplies or to help them

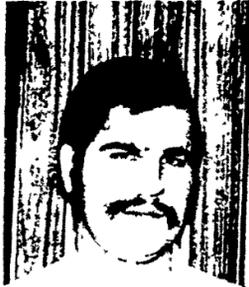
market their products. But when a co-op is involved in both ends, then you run the risk of price fixing and other abuses."

Other farms visited on the tour were: James Hess, Quarryville R2; Jacob Groff, Holtwood R1; Arthur Rohrer, Paradise R1; Robert Book, Leola; and Noah Wenger, Stevens R1

## Charles Receives Recognition

James Charles, 796 Stoney Battery Rd., Landisville, who is Genetic Technician employed by American Breeders Service was recently selected as the winner in the Performance Program for Region 4.

Charles, who won in the two-year and under wmployment category, was selected for his outstanding



James Charles, Stoney Battery Rd., Landisville, was recently named top award winner in the Region 4 ABS Genetics Technician competition.

work in sales, promotion and company service.

For receiving first place honors in his category, Charles has been awarded a three day trip to the American Breeder's Service Headquarters in DeForest, Wisconsin.

Charles' primary working area has been the Western section of Lancaster County.

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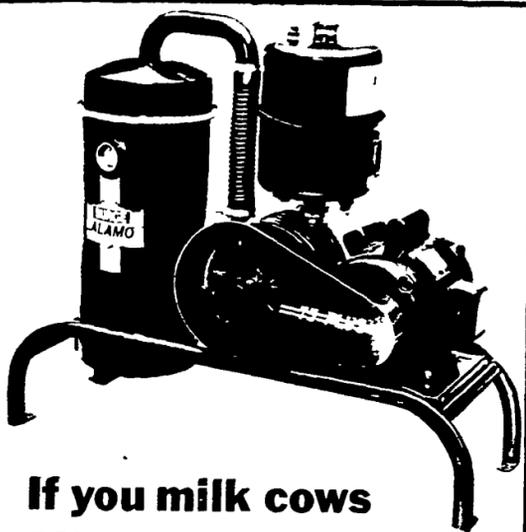
## Conestoga Crusadors

The Conestoga Crusadors Horse and Pony Club recently had a business meeting at Mrs. Jodi Alexander's barn at 7:30 p.m.

The secretary read the minutes. Members discussed unfinished business and planned future activities.

Margy Alexander did a demonstration on properly grooming a horse.

The Conestoga Crusadors next meeting will be mounted at Mrs. Jodi Alexander's on April 5, rain date April 12, 1975.



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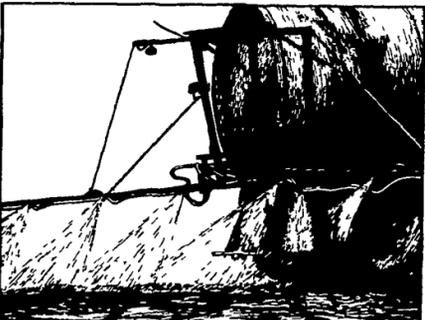
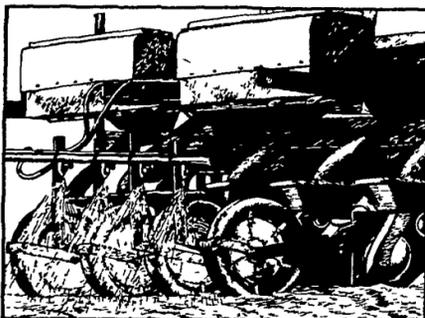
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