

Letters to the Editor

(Editor's Note:) In the past few months, there has been considerable discussion as to the position of the farm women in relation to a group (American Agri-Women) which was organized last November in Milwaukee. The following letter is concerned with these groups and will hopefully clear up some of the questions concerning them.

Dear Editor:

To clear up any misunderstanding about the relationship of American Agri-Women with the National Farm Women's Forum sponsored by Farm Wife News, Milwaukee, WI, I wrote to the FWN convention coordinator Ann Kaiser.

At the Regional and York County Ladies' Day Out for Pennsylvania Farmers' Association members, PFA representatives were throwing out some fairly negative remarks when York County ladies asked for time to announce their plans to organize a flight trip for any area women wishing to attend the second annual Farm Women's Forum in Milwaukee.

Here is the statement from Mrs. Kaiser: "Last year, as many of you will recall, a coalition group called American Agri-Women was formed at a meeting the last day of the Forum." Technically, it was the morning following the close of the Forum.

"Questions have arisen over the connection of Farm Wife News, the National Farm Women's Forum and American Agri-Women. Hopefully I can clear up any confusion with a bit of explanation.

"The staff of Farm Wife News came up with the idea for the publication to sponsor the National Farm Women's Forum last November as the highlight of "National Farm Wife Month" (November). "This being our first at-

tempt at planning such an event, we contacted women in various farm organizations, telling them of our plans and asking for their ideas on program contents.

"One of those we contacted was Laura Hauser, an organizer of Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan, one of the groups which promoted the American Agri-Women coalition.

"Laura said the Michigan women had been wanting to set up a meeting to bring together similar groups from other states and see if they could cooperate on some projects.

"Since FWN was planning the Forum which would draw women from all over the country, Laura felt it would be convenient to have their meeting in Milwaukee at the same time.

"They arranged for a room at the Forum headquarters hotel for the day after our two major days of Forum programming. It was at this meeting the coalition was formed.

"By planning the Forum, Farm Wife News provided an opportunity for farm and ranch women to meet and share ideas.

"American Agri-Women was one of the results. But beyond providing this kind of opportunity, Farm Wife News has no special connection with American Agri-Women other than a healthy interest in its activities, as we have in the activities of the Porkettes, Farm Bureau Women, etc."

Thirty-seven women from the York - Lancaster area attended the first Forum last November. They attended programs for the rural women who's a farm business partner, an agricultural spokesman and homemaker. Not everyone was interested in the coalition meeting Thursday; only five attended it.

But a nucleus of women from York County Farmers' Association came back with ideas to promote agriculture which led to setting up extensive farm displays at the York Mall to celebrate National Ag Day in March and National Food Day in April at York College. They used the knowledge and motivation gained from the forum to work within their existing organization.

So it was just a little bit too much to take when we were put down for supporting what has turned out to be a worthwhile experience which we want to repeat this year and offer to our friends within Farm Bureau in these two counties.

Personally, I am an avid supporter of American Agri-Women. Their goals are that of Farm Bureau which I also whole-heartedly support as county information director and family farm member. I hope to see many more Farm Bureau women involved in the organization of this national coalition which can work with all farmers to promote and defend agriculture in this day and age.

But regardless of anyone's opinion about AAW, there is so much to learn and share at Farm Women's Forum by itself that I think every farm woman who can get away November 10-12 should consider joining the group being organized by Mrs. Harold Gross, Manchester R2.

Oley Valley Fair winners listed

OLEY - The annual Oley Valley Community Fair took place September 18, 19 and 20 on the Oley Fire Company Grounds in Oley. Although the weather was generally unpleasant with much rain on Thursday the crowds and exhibitors were not deterred greatly.

Highlights of the three day fair were a milking contest, tractor pulling, horseshoe pitching and the domestic and agricultural exhibits connected with most fairs.

The top premium winners in the livestock and agricultural categories were: Dairy - Wendy Shaw, Oley; Beef - James Dietrich, Hamburg; Sheep - Paul Scherbner, Boyertown; Swine - Elton Muth, Alburts; Poultry and Eggs - Calvin Bonawitz, Fleetwood; Hay and Grain - Steven Miller, Oley; Vegetables - Morris Haas, Oley; Fruits - Stanley Leh, Boyertown and Clay Angstadt, Mertztown.

A milking contest for women was held in which the women were also competing for the best and most authentic milkmaid outfit similar to those worn by women in the Oley Valley

years ago. The first place winner in both categories was Mrs. Betty Hoch, Oley. Mrs. Hoch milked 9½ pounds of milk in the two minute time period. Runnerup in the contest was Ella Richards, Oley.

Results in the tractor pulling contest produced the following winners. In the Over 15,000 weight class the winner was Woodrow Rothenberger, Oley. Under 15,000 lbs. Robert Noll, Oley was the winner. Terry Bashore, also of Oley placed first in the under 11,000 class.

Daniel Schlegel, Oley under 13,000 lbs. and under 7,000 lbs. And in the under 9,000 lbs. the winner was Earl Hafer, Douglasville.

In the Cattle judging contest the winners were Calvin Beekman, Boyertown-Dairy Judging and Mike Moyer, Boyertown-Livestock Judging.

Ira Pennington, Fleetwood placed first in the horseshoe pitching contest with Daniel Schlegel, Oley as the runnerup. The high scorer in this event was Roy Angstadt, Fleetwood.

Cake show slated

A Decorated cake show is being planned by the Cake Charmers Club for October 18 from 10 a.m. til 6 p.m. in the Harford Mall at Belair, Md. They are planning to award trophies, prizes and ribbons to professionals, advanced cake decorators, beginners and Vo-Tech students. Out-of-state entries are welcome to enter. Entry blanks in addition to rules of the show will be returned when a stamped self-addressed envelope is sent to, MARY GARVIN, RISING

SUN, MD. 21911. They are planning demonstrations during the day and there will be no registration fee. The Cake Charmers Club will be soon celebrating their first anniversary and the cake show is planned to be an annual event of each year.

Mushroom-Zucchini

Combine sliced mushrooms thinly sliced raw zucchini a diced raw tomato and sliced scallions. Make a dressing of equal amounts of oil and white vinegar salt pepper and crumbled marjoram leaves.

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