

Agri-women develop policies

MILWAUKEE, WI — "Realizing that food is a global concern, we accept the responsibility to support American agriculture and the family farm." With that statement precluding a series of nine concerns, several York County farm women participated in the first annual meeting of the American Agri-Women recently at the Marc Plaza here.

American Agri-Women (AAW) is a national coalition of farm women and farm women's organizations formed last November at the conclusion of the first National Farm Women's Forum and named by Gail McPherson, New Park, who now serves on the goal setting committee for AAW.

Its membership is open to any farm woman or organization which accepts the statement of purpose adopted at the first meeting:

"We as women's agricultural organizations and individuals, unite together to communicate with one another and with other consumers to promote agriculture for the benefit of the American people and the world."

Serving as a communication link-up for those who join the coalition, the organization has worked together on national issues of mutual interest and concern for the past year. The new set of goals encompasses a wide spectrum of issues vital to the family farm:

1. To support Federal legislation increasing the marital deduction for inheritance tax purposed to \$250,000; extending the time limit for the payment of these taxes to 18 months; and eliminating the requirement that the surviving spouse prove a contribution to the estate.
2. To urge government regulatory agencies to utilize input from the agricultural industry to prevent unnecessary and ill-advised regulations and to encourage congressional reassessment of agency accountability in regard to their economic impact on the cost and availability of food.
3. To work for fair and just marketing programs in the United States and abroad on the basis of individual commodities, including the requirement of the same

standards of quality for imported and domestic foods.

4. To support the Capper-Vollstedt Act which enables farmers to maintain individual bargaining power through cooperatives.

5. To end the politics of reprisal and begin the politics of reconciliation in labor-management relationships in agriculture.

6. To develop better channels of communication by providing the public with comprehensive agricultural information.

7. To establish an AAW Resource Center to function under the direction of the AAW Education Committee; to develop educational programs about modern American agriculture for the public, teachers and school children.

8. To promote the continuation and development of food research programs to meet future demands.

9. To investigate local land use proposals and participate in the decision making process, because we accept land as the basic tool of agriculturalists in the production of food and fiber.

Ethel Gross, Manchester R2, participated actively on the AAW Ways and Means Committee, while Joyce Bupp, Seven Valleys R2, took part in the Public Relations Committee activities while in Milwaukee. Mrs. Bupp reiterated the

necessity of AAW to women in agriculture after returning from the convention:

"Farmers represent only 4 per cent of the population. By working together effectively we can magnify our political clout and we can educate other consumers and the consumers of the future (our school children) as to the needs of agriculture and the family farmer."

In this age of women's liberation, the farm woman fits right in, according to Mrs. Bupp. In fact, she's always been an integral part of her industry. "Women are collaborators and innovators," she suggests. "We can try new approaches to old problems and help achieve success in promoting and improving agriculture for the benefit of the American people and the world."

"Our men are so busy being the best food and fiber producers in the world that we women must help them

with the problems created by ill-advised legislation, bureaucracy, marketing inadequacies, urbanized news-media and a host of other problems," contends the dairy and beef producer's wife.

She urges all farm women to get involved in AAW and other farm organizations that promote the interests of the "new minority, the farmer." "You can first inform yourself and then your legislators and the general public. You are needed to make phone calls, write letters, talk to teacher and school children, legislators, other consumers, participate in meetings and investigate issues and problems."

"There is a job and need for everyone. It is challenging, exciting, educational, hard work and sometimes frustrating. But it is always rewarding when you have helped your farmer with agriculture's problems," asserts this proud partner.

With this challenge and affirmative commitment, Mrs. Bupp advocates membership in AAW to all those women concerned with

the survival of agriculture in this country. Information may be obtained from her, Mrs. Gross or Mrs. McPherson. The newsletter subscription for AAW comes with membership dues of \$2 which may be sent to Sharon Knight, R1, Naches, Washington, 98837.



On November 14, on the cold Plains of Abraham, American forces demanded the surrender of Quebec. British Gen. Sir Guy Carlton, possessing ample food and water, and protection from the harsh weather, answered the American demand with gunfire. Under long siege, Quebec held and Canada remained under British control.

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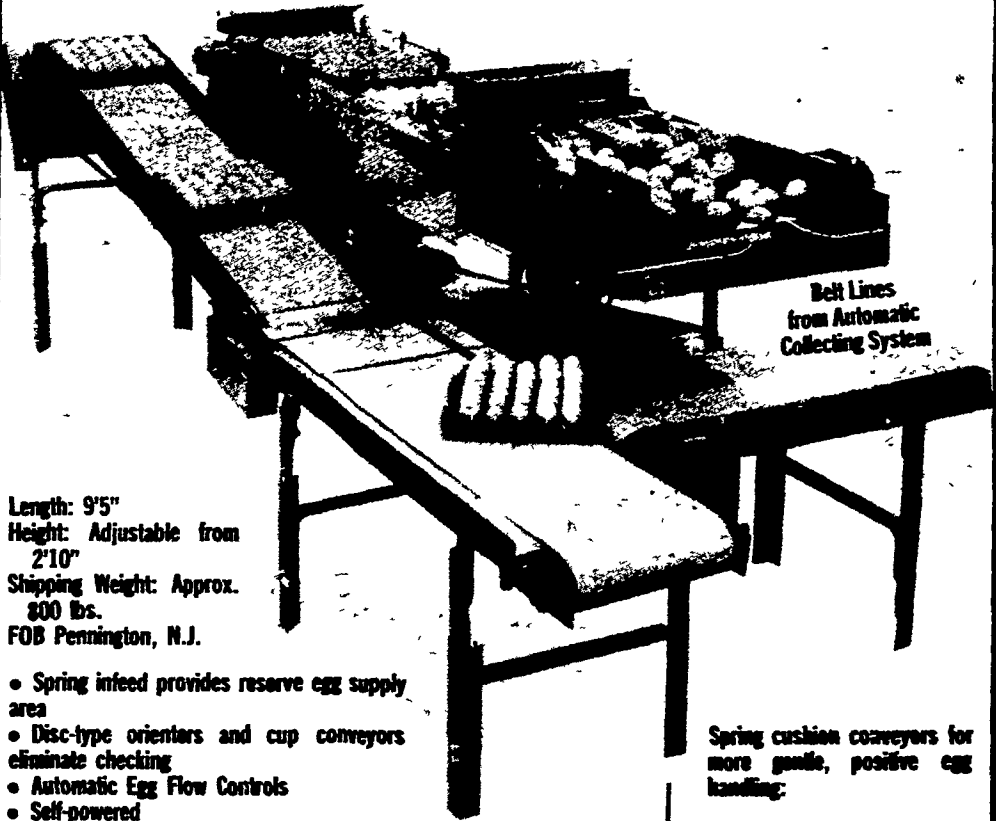
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