

Farmer

[Continued from Page 1] Strong as it used to be, the club is still active and meets monthly — often attracting speakers such as Dr. Pasto. Interested in their surroundings and anything which may affect their way of life, members of the Club regularly meet to discuss the latest technologies and problems and to just keep in touch with friends and neighbors. Meeting places are usually the homes of the members themselves. While gathered at a particular farm, an "inspection committee" is appointed to tour the buildings and adjacent property and later report on it.

Mrs. Richard P. Maule, former secretary of the Club, noted that at one time the inspection committee even paraded through the host's house from cellar to attic. But that wasn't appreciated at times and the practice has since been done away with. Barns and property, however, are still evaluated. The findings, such as new devices or buildings, and particularly good animals or plants, are then recorded in the minutes for that meeting. In this way the Octoraro Farmers Club has been able to keep track of agricultural and related developments for the past 120 years. An interesting observation

was made by members 70 years ago when the Club celebrated its 50th anniversary. Graham, an enthusiastic member, gave the account. The subject was automobiles. The self-propelled, smoke belching carriage was beginning to be popular and scaring cattle and citizens alike. There were no driving regulations of any kind, and something had to be done. The minutes for the 1906 anniversary meeting state: "Is there anything we can do to protect ourselves from the automobiles?" A resolution was made that the motor cars should have to stop until horses got past them! Graham explains that when the Club was founded in March of 1856, there was no Department of Agriculture nor Extension Service. "The Club was

formed to compensate for that; to establish communications," he explained. A preliminary statement in a historical manuscript about the organization said that farmers just lived in those days and wished for better methods to do things, a better way of life... a general improvement of anything. The time to stop wishing and do something came 120 years ago when Joshua Wood of Christiana came up with the idea of forming a farmers' club. Eleven men, most of them Quakers, formed the nucleus of the organization that has ever since then strived to learn, share, communicate, and socialize. The Club became more social after more extensive organizations such as the Extension Service came into being, Graham said.

Milk production up

HARRISBURG - Milk production in Pennsylvania during April totaled 635 million pounds, up two per cent from a year earlier

according to the Crop Reporting Service.

The number of milk cows in the Commonwealth during April was 709,000 head, up 4,000 from a year earlier.

although meetings still entail much more than just friendly conversations over a cup of coffee or tea. His wife agreed heartily, stressing the fact that the group still spends most of its time discussing major issues. "It's a marvelous club," she exclaimed.

Milk production per cow averaged 895 pounds in April, up ten pounds from last year.

United States milk production during April totaled 10,450 million pounds, up three per cent from a year earlier. U.S. milk production per cow averaged 944 pounds, 39 pounds above a year ago and 42 pounds above April 1974. Milk cows on farms totaled 11,072,000 head, down one per cent from a year ago.

Present officers are: Tom Halladay, president; John Hoffman, vice president; Francis Fredd, secretary; and G. Walter Jackson, treasurer.



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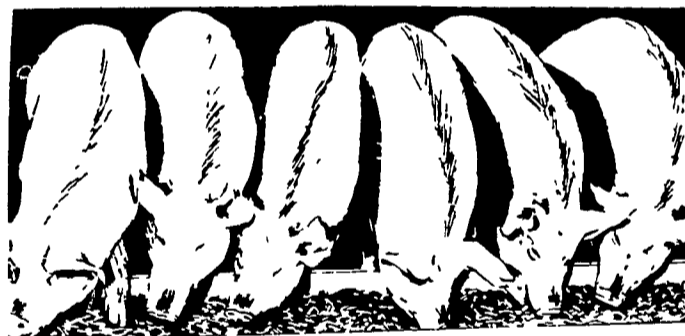
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