

Agriculture on parade

MARTINSBURG — A parade featuring all kinds of farm equipment and tools from 100 years ago to the present will take place this coming Friday, July 16, to help commemorate the nation's Bicentennial. Officially proclaimed to illustrate "The Evolution of Agriculture," the parade will take place in this Blair County town, beginning promptly at 6 p.m.

More than 100 units of antique farm implements will be on hand and displays will feature, consecutively, the earliest forms of tools on up to present technologies. "Each segment of the parade will be concluded with implements representing modern methods," says Russell Steele, Blair County farmer and chairman of the parade.

After winding its way through town along a route which is approximately 1 1/4 miles long, the procession of farm machinery and tools will be on display at the

Martinsburg Memorial Park. There, on the following day, the machines will be put to use and are expected to attract a sizable audience. The entire event will be recorded on 16 mm color movie film, complete with a sound track.

The "Evolution of Agriculture" was a year in the making and is being sponsored by the Morrisons Cove Chapter of Pennsylvania Young Farmers. Steele serves as president of the chapter. Working with him on the parade as co-chairman is Harry Brubaker of Roaring Spring.

Steele notes that the film being made of the procession and later use of the equipment will be made available to other groups upon completion. The Young Farmers decided to "go the full route" in their recording of the event since "it is unlikely that such a gathering of equipment could be staged again. The group believes it is the biggest such event ever to take place in the area.

Lancaster Co. 4-H'ers in Regional 4-H Day

LANCASTER — Twenty-seven Lancaster County 4-H'ers took part in Regional 4-H Day at Dillsburg, York County, on July 8. The eight-county event is held in preparation for August State 4-H Days. The categories the 4-H'ers participated in were demonstrations, public speaking, horse bowl, milk bowl, physical fitness, and clothing judging.

The 4-H'ers who will be attending State 4-H Days as a result of this competition are senior demonstrators Susan Martin, Ephrata, and Martha Gregory, Lititz.

The blue ribbon winner in the junior demonstration competition was Rosemary Nissley, Mt. Joy.

Lancaster County horse bowl and junior milk bowl teams placed first in their categories.

Senior demonstrators were Wanda Yoder, Gordonville; Susan Martin, Ephrata; Carole Ebersole, Lititz; Martha Gregory, Lititz; Jane Gregory, Lititz; and Karen Miller, Peach Bottom.

Junior demonstrators were Cindy Risser, Leola, and Rosemary Nissley, Mt. Joy.

Phil Risser, Leola, took part in the public speaking contest.

Those in the Horse Bowl were Lashon Bussell, Manheim; Heidi Bailey, Quarryville; Jenny Weber, Millersville; and Judi Anderson, Lancaster.

Senior Milk Bowl participants were Linda Kauffman, Elizabethtown; Jane McSparren, Peach Bottom; Rick Mellinger; Strasburg; and Warren Schmuck, Peach Bottom.

Junior Milk Bowl participants were Connie Balmer, Lititz; Mary Witmer, Willow Street; Jane Stoltzfus, Gap; and Karen Schmuck, Peach Bottom.

Lancaster Countians in the physical fitness competition were Henry Gibson, Lois Jones, and Rosezella Thomas, all of Lancaster.

Those in clothing judging were Gayle Kline, Mountville; June Grube, Manheim; and Nancy Mays, Lancaster.

Young Grangers atcamp

HARRISBURG — The June 15, 1976 Index of Prices Received by Pennsylvania farmers remained unchanged from the previous month, but 10 percent above a year earlier, according to the Crop Reporting Service.

Higher prices for milk cows, small grains, apples and hogs were offset by lower prices for hay, meat animals and milk. The purchasing power of prices received was one percentage point below May but three

percentage points above a year ago.

Nationally, the Index of Prices Received increased two percent from May and was five percent above a year ago. Contributing most to the increase since mid-May were higher prices for soybeans, corn and hogs. Lower prices for cattle, apples and hay were partially offsetting. The purchasing power at the U.S. level was one percentage point above mid-May but two percentage points below a year ago.

U.S. has 111 million more tillable acres

WASHINGTON — The United States has 111 million acres of land not now in crops that could be converted to cropland if needed, according to a new study by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The acreage, which has either a "high" or "medium" potential for conversion to crops, is

roughly equivalent to the total U.S. acreage planted in corn, oats, and sorghum last year. Total acres planted in all crops last year totaled 400 million.

The "potential cropland study" was conducted by SCS field people at 41,000 sites in 506 counties selected on a random basis. Sites were located in all 50 states,

Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, and were limited to non-federal land. The study was begun in May 1975 by the agency in response to a mounting volume of requests for current estimates of available cropland.

The study identifies three different acreages of potential cropland that could be switched to crops with varying degrees of difficulty and expense.

First, 24 million acres of "prime farmland" could be converted simply by beginning tillage. These soils would require little or no protection from erosion and, with normal rainfall, should produce high yields.

Second, the study identifies an additional 54 million acres of "high potential" land that would require some soil and water management to prevent erosion and sedimentation or to dispose of unwanted water.

Finally, there is another 33

million acres with "medium potential" for conversion to crops. These acres pose more serious erosion hazards and water disposal problems and would cost more to convert. Nevertheless, soil conservationists see no reason why, with application of current technology, these acres could not be used for crops if the need arises.

SCS questions whether acreages beyond this 111-million-acre total could be brought into cropland safely. The conservation agency's estimate of convertible land is considerably lower than previous estimates, which have run as high as 266 million acres.

The agency also found that about two million acres of farmland are being "irreversibly" lost each year to urban buildup, with an additional one million acres going under water in ponds, lakes, and reservoir

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