

One last look

TOBACCO DOWN
 Lancaster County. That was at the Lancaster County Tobacco Show, held at the Farm and Home Center

Tax meetings slated

UNIVERSITY PARK - Penn State University and the Extension Service are scheduling meetings about the state on farm income tax. Registration fee of \$5 will be collected from each family the day of the meeting to cover the cost of materials and supplies for instruction. A large number of changes in the farm income tax laws indicate that the attendance in the 1977 meetings will be greater than usual. Area meetings will be held on the following dates and times: 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 Jan. 4, 1977. Ridgeway, Royal Motel, one mile South on 219.
 Jan. 5, 1977. Meadville, Holiday Inn, two miles West on 7.
 Jan. 6, 1977. Butler, Friendship Federal Savings & North Main Street.
 Jan. 18, 1977. Chambersburg, Holiday Inn, Southside, Section Route 316 and Interstate 81 (Wayne Avenue).
 Jan. 19, 1977. Lancaster, Farm and Home Center, from 230 by-pass take Route 72 south one-half mile, east on Road next to Jones Pontiac.
 Jan. 20, 1977. Allentown, Trexlertown Grange, Route between Trexlertown and Wescosville.
 Jan. 25, 1977. Mansfield, St. James Episcopal, Parish Mansfield.
 Jan. 26, 1977. Lewisburg, Country Cupboard, 1 1/2 mile on Route 15, Lewisburg.
 Jan. 27, 1977. Tamaqua, Leibys Ice Cream House, 443 and 309, three miles south of Tamaqua.

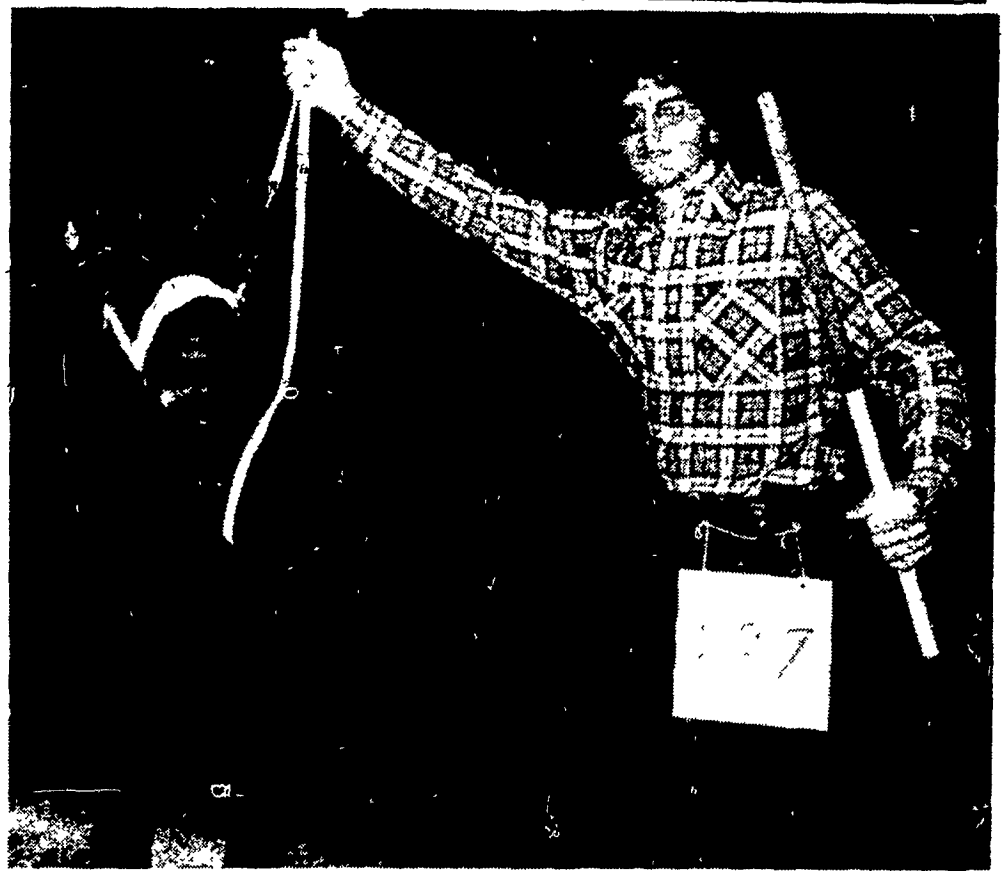
prior to the opening of the Farm Show on Jan. 5, judges announced that the 1975 tobacco crop was down in quality compared to other years. One big indication was that the number of entries were down significantly - from 200 entries a few years ago to 111 in 1976.

A quick check of markets in early January, compared to late December 1976, reveals: The Baltimore egg market, supply ample, undertone weak, large 77-84, mostly 77-80, mediums 75-82, mostly 75-78. Last week that same market was quoted as steady, demand remains fairly good, supplies adequate, large 88-91, medium 84-87.

Alfalfa hay was selling for as high as \$100 per ton at Lancaster County auctions, with the lowest given quotation being \$64. Last week the range was considerably wider, with one load reportedly selling for \$60, while the top-notch stuff fetched \$120.

Lancaster County grain prices last January were \$63.70 per ton of ear corn picked up at the mill, compared to \$58.00 at year's end. Barley sold for \$2.15 per bushel at the mill early this year, compared to \$2.43 last week. Soybeans were at \$4.27 per bushel delivered to the mill, compared to \$6.75 now. Millers' wheat was bought by mills at \$2.54 1/2 per bushel, compared to \$2.76 a year ago.

The best slaughter cows brought in the neighborhood of 30 cents per pound a year



Jim Greider and his grand champion beef animal.

ago. They were priced two to four cents lower than that last week. The top steers commanded just under 50 cents per pound in early January; last week they were bringing in the low 40's. Veal calves 12 months ago sold as high as 70 cents per pound; last week they went as high as 68.

Hog producers were enjoying 50-cent prices at the beginning of the year, compared to the low 40's in late December.

BICENTENNIAL FARMS
 The first 1976 issue of Lancaster Farming rang in a series of stories on farms which had been in the same

family for at least 100 years. The series began with the Amos Risser farm, Elizabethtown, which dates back to 1739, and ends with the Mahlon Lehman farm, also of Elizabethtown, as this issue goes to press. All told, more than 30 such farms were featured during the past 12 months.

January 1976 was also the month during which the National Till convention was held at Hershey. A very good turnout was reported and officials are hopeful of seeing another capacity crowd at this year's convention in Gettysburg. Ask your county agent for details about the Jan. 7, 1977 event.

Meanwhile, back in Camp Hill, Eugene Meyer, editor of Hoard's Dairyman, told the Pennsylvania Dairyman's Association that the short-term future of the industry looks bright, but import possibilities threaten the long-term outlook. Fortunately, 1976 turned out to be a rather good year for most dairymen, as the first portion of Meyer's prediction fulfilled itself.

While all that was going on in Pennsylvania, the American Farm Bureau Federation met in St. Louis, Mo. to declare that a Constitutional amendment should be called for to require government fiscal responsibility. The association of farmers also warned at the same convention that "the drive to

make American agriculture a public utility is becoming an issue of overriding importance."

SHELHAMER SAYS YES
 Kent Shelhamer, who will take over the reigns of Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture in two weeks, gave his official okay to that effect nearly a year ago, according to a story filed in mid-January of 1976. Raymond Kerstetter, who will step down as Secretary of Agriculture this month, at the same time indicated he was not willing to take the post for more than a year.

The Ephrata Jaycees chose Tom Zartman as the area's outstanding young farmer, and Lew Ayres for the distinguished service award, Lancaster Farming reported in its Jan. 24 issue.

In that same issue it was also reported that Burton S. Horne, professor of agricultural engineering at Penn State, had died on Jan. 9 in State College at the age of 55. He had been a member of the PSU faculty for 24 years and was well known for his work both as an engineer and organizer.

"Cattle market future looks promising," a front page banner headline declared in the Jan. 31 issue. It was quoting a Penn State economist who had an awful lot of company in predicting that cattle prices would be strong throughout the year.

(Continued on Page 72)

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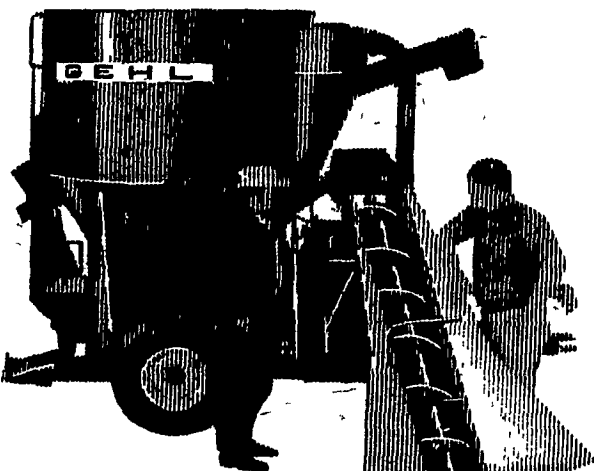
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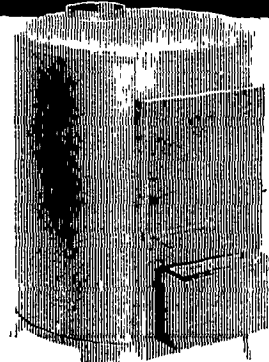
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