

# Lancaster Farming

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## Carter ag policy may lead to parity

By JOANNE SPAHR  
HARRISBURG, Pa. - In a three-pronged speech dealing with the future of agriculture under the Carter administration, the importance of American farm commodities to world trade, and the need for a new approach in achieving greater price stability for agricultural products, Robert Lewis, secretary for National Farmer's Union, said he sees the possibility of the Carter administration adopting a system whereby commodities can be stored during times of abundance and put up for sale in poor harvest years. Lewis was speaking to an assembly of Pennsylvania Farmers' Union members at their annual convention held last

Monday and Tuesday at the Penn Harris Motor Inn.

The system that Lewis was describing is part of a program proposal developed by the Farmers Union entitled "The Farmers Union Plan for Parity and Abundance." Under this program, farmers will be enabled to receive loans from the government to hold their corn, wheat, and other storable commodities in reserve for sale at a higher price during times when the market is up. To insure that these commodities are held in reserve, the government will take a mortgage on the crops.

"I do think the Carter administration will follow a system somewhat like this," Lewis announced, "but I don't think

they will do it as fast as we might like. But we (FU) are going to keep on working to get that system rigged up, and then we're going to try to help the government run it at the right rate of speed, or 100 per cent of parity for American farmers." Parity, in simplified terms, is cost plus reasonable profit.

According to Lewis, during December, American farmers received on the average only 66 per cent of parity, the lowest since March 1933. And, at the present time, American price supports are the lowest of any significant food supplier in the world.

"The United States supplies exactly 64 per cent of all the grain that crosses international

boundaries, and we're the prime supplier when anybody needs something to eat," he said. Only three other countries can be depended on to produce a surplus - Canada, Australia, and Argentina. Others export some years and have to import during others. Because of U.S.A.'s key role in food trade, our grain prices determine the world price. So, at this point in time with the new administration coming into power, nearly all countries are looking to the United States to see what the Carter administration will do in regards to farm price.

"We're more important for our food production than Saudi Arabia is for oil," the Farmers'



Bob Lewis

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## Higher beef prices seen; referendum discussed

By DIETER KRIEG  
LANCASTER, Pa. - Lancaster County cattle feeder, Harold Frey, says there's nobody smart enough to predict that this year or the next is the year to get in or stay out of the cattle

business. The veteran beef producer made the remark at the annual Cattle Feeders' Day held here at the Farm and Home Center earlier this week.

In discussing his own operation and experiences

briefly, Frey presented a message without ever directly saying the words - "pay attention to details."

Los Burdette, professor of animals science at Penn State, took the podium after Frey and stated the above

words for him, at the same time complimenting him on his narration. "Cattle feeding is a business, more than feed marketing in the form of meat, and it means paying attention to details," said Burdette.

Burdette observed that if a cattle feeder is talking to the market, he's been feeding his cattle for too long. "Those last few pounds gained are expensive pounds," he remarked.

But no matter which way

the management side of the beef business is sliced, farm prices for the final product are likely to increase by a nickel between now and the third quarter of the year.

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Paul Hostetter



Roy Alger

## Mt. Joy co-op shares earnings

By DIETER KRIEG  
MT. JOY, Pa. - Members of the Mount Joy Farmers Cooperative Association met here at Hostetter's Dining Hall on Wednesday, and following the meeting walked off \$63,000 richer. The money - saved earnings from 1976 cooperative business - was divided among members in the form

of revolving fund certificates and direct cash payments. Sixty per cent of the funds were turned over to members in the form of certificates.

The recently completed year was described as having been a good one for the cooperative, and 1977 is being looked at with optimism as well. Said Mount

Joy Farmers Cooperative President Roy Alger: "The outlook for this year is somewhat less rosy than what it was for 1976, it'll probably take most of 1977 to balance milk supplies with demands, but I personally feel we'll see improved prices by Summer." Acknowledging a fair amount of prosperity for the

cooperative, Alger also noted that "we're all in this together, this is our co-op, and we can't rest on our past laurels. Prices paid to milk producers co-op members were said to be the highest in the area."

The Mount Joy Cooperative markets its

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David Putney



Bill Stoudt

## Farm & Home Foundation clears debt

By SALLY BAIR  
Feature Writer  
LANCASTER, Pa. - Seven directors were elected for three year terms at the 13th annual meeting of the Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County on Thursday at the Farm and Home Center.

Elected were: Roy A. Brubaker, 702 Woodcrest Avenue, Lititz; Gary A.

Dean, Strasburg R 1; B. Snavely Garber, Willow Street R2; Clarence A. Keener, Jr., Manheim R1; Vernon J. Leininger, Denver R2; Mrs. James Z. Martin, New Holland R2; H. Raymond Stoner, 1051 Eden Road, Lancaster.

Speaker for the meeting was Aaron H. Denlinger, Paradise, who entertained and informed with a slide

presentation about agriculture around the world. Denlinger and his wife, Mary, took a seven week tour of thirteen countries last Summer, and saw some agricultural operations along with more well-known tourist attractions.

Denlinger said he and his wife planned the trip themselves, deciding which

countries to visit and how long they would spend at each destination. The beginning leg of the trip was organized to coincide with a meeting of mission executives of the Home Council of the Unevangelized Fields Mission, of which Denlinger has been chairman for eight years. He

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## Eastern concerned with energy crisis

SYRACUSE, N.Y. - "Due to our nation's current energy crisis, the dairy industry must be placed high on the priority list of those receiving natural gas supplies," according to John C. York, general manager of Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative. Prior to departure for his

scheduled meeting on the energy subject in Washington, D. C. with congressional leaders, York noted that action had been taken recently by Eastern's Board of Directors, resolving that it is imperative to assure continued use of natural gas in the

manufacture of milk products.

Milk is a perishable commodity, stated York. Therefore, the manufacture of dairy products is essential to the viability of the dairy industry, one of the largest in the Northeast, and necessary to the lives of both

consumers and producers of milk, he stressed.

The cooperative leader cautioned that any movement to curtail or discontinue the use of natural gas in the manufacture of dairy products from whole milk, a

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