

# Plans announced for wool pool

By LAUREL SCHAEFFER  
Berks County Reporter

BOYERTOWN, Pa. — Mrs. Ian Mackay, secretary-treasurer of the Berks County Sheep and Wool Growers Association has

announced plans for their annual wool pool.

The pool will be scheduled for early June at the Reading Fairgrounds. Anyone in Berks County or surrounding areas with no access to a wool pool are encouraged to

join the pool. There is no limit to the amount of wool a person can bring, it can be one fleece or 1000. Mr. Mrs. Mackay told Lancaster Farming.

The pool is a non-profit farmers' cooperative run by 12 directors, primarily for the purpose of marketing wool. Anyone marketing wool through the pool automatically becomes a member, Mrs. Mackay said. Wool brought to the pool is weighed, graded, bagged and shipped to the buyer for a low fee to cover the handling costs. "The fee covers the cost of labor and trucking at the pool and any business transacted by the association in marketing the wool," Mrs. Mackay explained.

This year Mrs. Mackay is very optimistic about the prices they will get for the

wool. "Last year for three-eighths and one-quarter staple we obtained 66 cents per pound," she said. "But his year on the Chicago Market wool has been about 15 cents higher, which is a very good indication for us," Mackay continued.

We will know what price will sell the wool for later in April, Mackay remarked. On April 26th representatives from the board of directors will go to Penn State University to accept the highest bid offered for the wool. Last year the pool marketed 20,000 pounds of wool and had 164 people participate.

Mackay also announced that, the association will hold a meeting at the Berks County Agricultural Center on April 19th at 7:30 for anyone interested in the pool, or in sheep in general.

David Kantner, Schuylkill County agent, is scheduled to speak on lamb carcass evaluation. A film on sheep and wool will also be shown. The association will also

announce dates for sheep shearing schools at the meeting. Anyone interested can contact Mrs. Mackay at 215-367-6867 for any questions they may have.

## NFU supports effort for wheat agreement

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Efforts by Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland to set up a wheat price agreement with Canada were praised as a "positive move for farmers" by Cy Carpenter, president of the Minnesota Farmers Union.

"Farmers have needed international grain agreements since the last ones expired in 1972," Carpenter said. "This move is long overdue."

The proposed agreement calls for the U.S. and Canada, who together supply 75 per cent of the world's exports of wheat, to set an export price, below which no wheat could be purchased from these two countries.

"For too long, grain traders and processing corporations have been running U.S. agricultural trade policy," Carpenter said. "I'm glad to see Secretary Bergland attempting to make pricing agreements with the farmer in mind."

pricing agreements would stabilize prices for farmers.

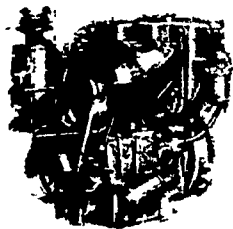
He said that with about two-thirds of the total U.S. wheat crop going for export, steps must be taken to protect farmers on the world market.

Carpenter said, "The Farmers Union is in favor of expanding commodity agreements to other exporting countries, and including consuming countries in the pricing negotiations."

"If we could free farmers from being victimized by the sometimes up and usually down world market, they could be assured of a fair price for their product. At the same time, the effect on food prices for consumers would probably be minimal, because domestic prices would remain relatively stable."

Carpenter said he expects opposition to the plan from the U.S. grain trade.

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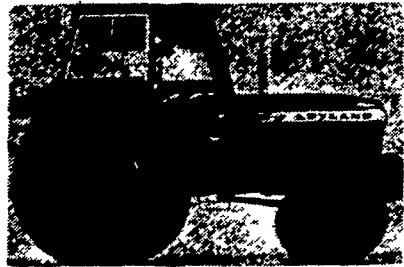
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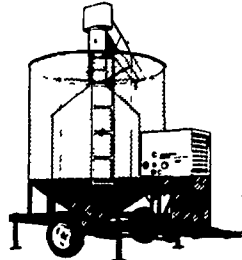
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