

# Farmers' association membership highest ever

By DIETER KRIEG

CENTREVILLE, Pa. - The Lancaster County Farmers Association boasts its highest membership of all time - 1430, and is gearing up for programs which will reflect that strength. Last year's public relations displays at Park City stood out as a major effort during 1976, and a similar project is already shaping up. Chairman of the women's committee, Ruth Shertzer, says tentative dates for the gigantic promotion at Park City will be October 17-22.

The LCFA's growth and strength were revealed during the annual Spring banquet, held Tuesday night at the Sherwood Knoll Restaurant. On hand for the occasion were nearly a dozen agricultural leaders, including Eugene Thompson, president of the Pennsylvania Farmers Association, and Noah Wenger, legislator from the 39th District in Lancaster County.

A voice in local, state, and federal government was cited as being one of the strong programs of the LCFA, which is directly affiliated with the PFA and American Farm Bureau Federation, the nation's largest organization of farmers.

Wenger, who operates a farm in Lancaster County, reported on impressions during his first year in state government. He noted that here are several "freshman farmers" in the legislature this year, and that thus far he has been "treated fairly." He serves on the agriculture and conservation committees.

The Lancaster Countian cautioned his audience against expecting too much from their government, suggesting that "there are a lot of things in which people would be better off doing themselves, rather than depending on the government." Too much dependence on government would cause people to become more frustrated with governmental red tape and bureaucracy, Wenger warned. It's a matter of the people deciding for themselves how much of their earned dollars they want to keep, and what they want to do with it, the legislator stated.

The national legislative scene was reviewed by Ivan Yost, a farmer from the



Eugene Thompson



Noah Wenger

Christiana area. He told the gathering of farmers that an extension of the now ending farm bill is favored and that a one year carryover of the old act may be expected. The Farmers Association favors a free market economy, rather than one influenced by government holdings and policies.

PFA president Thompson emphasized that food is not too cheap and stressed the need for having that point made clear to consumers. Thompson owns and operates a dairy farm in Indiana County and was vice president of PFA for eight years before being elected president.

The new PFA chief said Americans have concentrated too much power in the hands of the federal government and that a determined effort should be made to ask and demand less from government. A constitutional limit on taxation is favored.

In concluding his remarks, the farm leader said people need to regain their faith in themselves, in their government, and in their future as a free people.

Among others to make

brief comments before the group were Richard Hershey and John Barley.

Barley lauded the practice of LCFA members making it a point to attend township supervisors meetings, thus protecting their rights in

community developments, Hershey's comments centered around PFA's marketing programs, portions of which are in danger of being dropped due to a lack of support.

A final issue brought up at

the three-hour meeting was the rift between PFA and insurance underwriters for Farm Family. It was suggested that directors for both groups meet. No final decision was made on that score.

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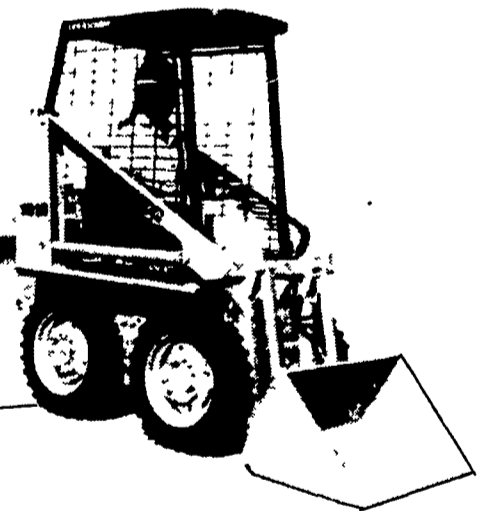
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