

Shelhamer urges home weatherization

HARRISBURG - Pennsylvania's Secretary of Agriculture Kent D. Shelhamer is urging Pennsylvania farmers to take advantage of their eligibility for rural home weatherization loans, to help cut energy costs in the face of a colder climate and unpredictable winters.

"Our farmers have seen first hand that a harsh winter such as this year can eat up annual profits in feed, fertilizer and energy costs," Shelhamer said. "Home weatherization is one way to cut energy use and allow resources to be spent on other needs."

Shelhamer said the program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Administration, and administered by the nation's

Rural Electrification Association cooperatives on a voluntary basis.

The weatherization program would provide a five year, eight per cent weatherization loan of about \$500 each to families of low and moderate income served by the rural electric cooperatives. The loan would then be repaid in small monthly payments added to the monthly electric bill.

"This program can mean a lot to our rural communities," Shelhamer said. "We know from our own experiences in Pennsylvania that not only does this kind of program help low and middle income families reduce their heating bills, but the weatherization will ultimately conserve substantial amounts of energy."

"In addition, the program

would help employment by creating jobs for installation and would stimulate the economy at large by building up demand for weatherization materials," Shelhamer noted.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture administers a pilot project called the Rural Housing Rehabilitation Program, which in two years has resulted in improvements in 295 homes in the Juniata, Mifflin and Snyder County area. The project is funded by the Federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973.

"As a result of the Rural Housing Rehabilitation Program," Shelhamer said, "housing has been improved, utility bills have

decreased and jobs have been created for workers who would otherwise be unemployed. We have conducted surveys of the people whose housing was rehabilitated, and they are unanimous in their satisfaction with the program."

Shelhamer said that an applicant for a weatherization loan through the Farmers Home Administration would only have to fill out one piece of paper and sign a promissory note. A list of approved contractors to perform the weatherization work will be provided by the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, who will then contract the work and collect from the borrower.

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Red Lion Grange hosts 3 groups

RED LION, Pa. - The third in a series of Grange visitation nite programs, under the direction of York-Adams Pomona Grange No. 40, was held on April 16, at the regular meeting of the Red Lion Grange, with Fawn Grove presenting the program. The Pa. State Grange theme is "Nature, Don't Take it For Granted". Fawn Grove used "Birds and Their Habitat" as related to the theme.

Seventy-two members attended the meeting, with three Granges represented. There were nine from Gideon Grange, Hanover; 24 from Fawn Grove, and 39 from Red Lion Grange.

The program consisted of songs, poems, readings and a discussion by all, on "how to attract birds." A presentation of the habits and sizes of birds was made by Esther Richardson, with the help of several members.

The next regular meeting of the Red Lion Grange will

be May 7, with the meeting time being changed to 8 p.m. "A Mother's Day" program is planned.

The next grange visitation nite will be at Fawn Grove, with Gideon Grange presenting the program, on May 16, at 8 p.m. The Pomona lecturer, Gladys Sheffer, has set a goal of 90 for attendance.

Other planned meetings of interest to York-Adams County Grange members are the following open meetings: April 26, at Washington Grange, Kralltown; May 7, at Biglerville Grange; May 13, at Gideon Grange. York-Adams Pomona Grange will be May 14, beginning at 2 p.m., at Valley Grange, Lewisberry. Election of officers will be held during the evening session. Judging of the dress sewing contest will begin at 2 p.m., under the direction of Dorothy Reichart, women's activity director.



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