

# Heifer Project International has goal of 125 head

MANHEIM, Pa.—Last year, the Lancaster, Chester, and Lebanon County district of Heifer Project International, a self-help program for needy people, had a goal of 100 heifers to be gathered and sent to Tanzania. This year, says Clarence Keener, Sr., Manheim R1, chairman of the area committee for nine years, the goal has risen to 125 head.

"About three years ago, Tanzania asked for yearlings to build up herds where there had previously been none," he explained. "They had been importing powdered milk which drained the economy and upset the balance of trade. So, they are hoping to start new herds for themselves."

The Tanzanian request, which had been for about 1000 head, is nearly half complete, and is a typical example of how HPI operates.

Heifer Project International began in 1944 when Dan West started it in the Church of the Brethren. The organization has since become international and non-denominational, with civic groups and others taking part in completing the project. Since its inception, the organization has sent out over 40,000 animals and chicks to people in 90 foreign countries as well as states in the USA. During the past eight years, Lancaster County and neighboring areas have been responsible for over 200 head of cattle.

"In the past we have gotten great response," remarked Keener. "We find that people from all over the state are willing to give."

The idea behind HPI is to help the needy themselves. The heifers going to underdeveloped countries around the world will be taken care of by families who will receive some in-



This was the scene last year at the Clarence Keener, Jr., farm when a trailer-load of heifers departed for Little Rock, Ark., for Tanzania, Africa.

struction and training in husbandry prior to the donation of the gifts. Little Rock has also had requests for veterinarians who are willing to donate their services to work abroad and for American families to host African boys for a six month training session on their farm.

The countries receiving the heifers have to pay a small amount. They pay for the transportation charges and are asked to make a small payment to reimburse their government for the freight and handling expenses.

The volunteer committee members will soon be contacting farmers for their ideas on participating in the project. Donations are always welcome, although some heifers don't come absolutely free of charge. Handling costs are incurred as well. As a result the actual cost of the 70-head heifer project in Keener's district in 1975 was \$7000. These expenses were raised by Bible Schools, churches, and other donations from various communities.

The animals sent from the Lancaster-Lebanon-Chester area are primarily heifers. "We stick to heifers from

the area because we have cattle, here," stated Keener. "But they ship rabbits, chicks, bees, and goats from the Little Rock Ranch."

Little Rock, Ark., is the primary headquarters of the organization, and is the location from which the heifers collected in the Lancaster area over the next three months will be shipped.

The shipping dates from the Lancaster headquarters to the Arkansas base are June 10, July 8, and August 5. The roundup will be held at the Clarence Keener, Jr., farm.

Anyone interested in being of service to this charitable organization is encouraged to contact one of the eight following individuals: Clarence Keener, Sr., 665-2361; Arthur Wenger, Manheim, 665-3863; John Metzler, Christiana, 215-593-5202; Leon Kreider, Quarryville, 284-4515; Victor Ziegler, Lebanon Co., 866-4088; Earl Umble, Lancaster, 393-3208; Alvin Weaver, Jonestown, 865-4549; and Adin Frey, Chambersburg, 264-7492. Money donations are also accepted.

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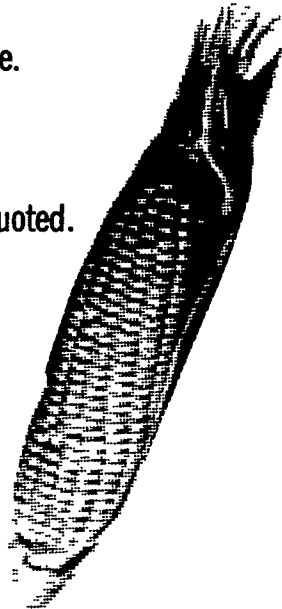
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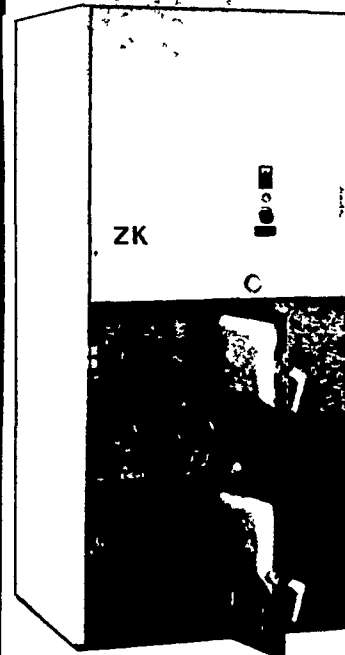
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