

Pennsylvania hosts Brazilian farm co-op group

by DIETER KRIEG
BIRD-IN-HAND - "Don't
 that we in this country
 learned it all," said
 he u s R u t h
 ritatively, in reference
 ucational experiences
 as had in Brazil. The
 County dairyman and
 al other Pennsylvania
 ers have taken part in
 nge programs between
 and Brazilian
 culturalists and the
 ct is that the peoples of
 country can learn
 the other.

is week it was the
 lians' turn to get a
 ose of what agriculture
 e in the Garden Spot.
 ame to southeastern
 ylvania by way of
 rgia and were later
 ed for visits to the
 west. The purpose of
 expedition was to learn
 t American agriculture,
 ncially U.S. farm
 eratives.

South Americans
 e equipped with sharp
 eyes, and minds. For
 mple, few U.S. farmers
 d know the history of
 er cooperatives, but
 ldino De Souza, head of
 Brazilian delegation, can
 e facts and figures of
 coops in fluent English.
 us co-travelers, and the
 alian government are
 much interested in
 ung all they can about
 cooperatives.

razil, which is about the
 e size as the United
 es, including Alaska and
 au, has an industrial
 agricultural potential

which is recongized around
 the world. It's an
 acknowledged and widely
 known fact that Brazil is one
 of the emerging giants of the
 world. In a way Brazil is like
 what the United States was a
 century ago. It's wealth is
 just being discovered and
 developed. Much of its
 potential riches are in
 agriculture. In years to
 come, Brazil could be a most
 valuable source of the
 world's food and feed supply.
 The South American nation
 is already heading toward
 that end, as it's soybean
 production is gaining rapidly
 on that of the United States.

According to Stan Gates of
 Erdenheim Farms, Brazil
 now ranks third in the world
 in terms of agricultural
 exports. Gates visited Brazil
 as a participant of the
 Alliance for Progress
 program, which is com-
 monly referred to as the
 "partners" program.

Brazil has placed a
 "tremendous emphasis on
 cooperatives," Gates told
 Lancaster Farming this
 week while the 14 visiting
 South Americans were
 dining at the Bird-in-Hand
 Restaurant. Their visit
 marks the second phase of a
 program which is sponsored
 by the Brazilian govern-
 ment.

During the first phase of
 the cooperative effort, Brazil
 invited Americans to come
 to visit, observe and teach.
 Ruth and Gates were two of
 several Pennsylvanians to
 be involved in the program.
 They conducted classes



Fourteen Brazilians visited Pennsylvania this week to observe American farming methods, particularly cooperative management. With the South American group are Alpheus Ruth, standing second from left, back row, and Stan Gates, third

from left. The two men had spent some time in Brazil to observe and teach. Between the two Pennsylvanians is Geraldino De Souza, leader of the Brazilian delegation.

regularly and assessed
 Brazilian methods. Ex-
 penses were footed by
 Brazil.

Now, during the second
 phase of the operation,
 Brazilians are seeing first-
 hand how U.S. cooperatives
 are managed. Two
 cooperatives they visited in
 this area were Atlantic
 Breeders and Lehigh Valley

Milk Producers. In Brazil,
 the cooperative way of doing
 business dates back to 1908.
 In comparison, the U.S.
 didn't pass the Capper-
 Volstead Act - which allowed
 the farmers to form
 cooperatives - until 1917, De
 Souza pointed out.

Although Brazil has a long
 history of cooperatives, their
 management and mode of

operation haven't always
 been as smooth as they could
 be. One of the country's
 weaknesses, according to
 one source, is that there are
 too many cooperatives. It
 only takes 20 farmers to
 form a cooperative.

Brazil is striving to
 develop its vast land areas,
 particularly the Amazon
 basin. Land is very cheap; in

fact it's almost given away,
 must as it was when North
 American pioneers
 homesteaded the Great
 Plains and other less
 populated regions.

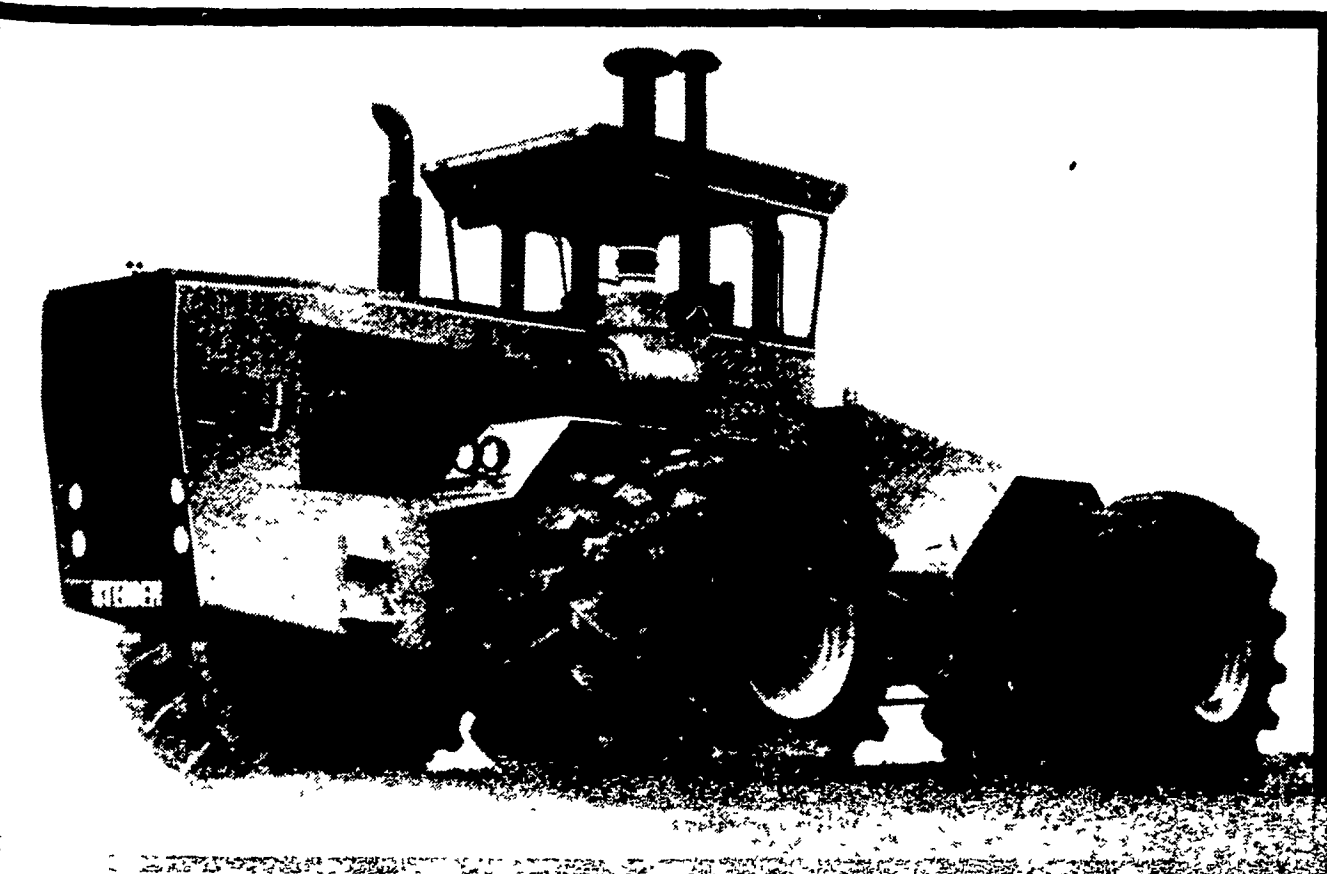
But the Brazilian govern-
 ment is taking precautions to
 ensure that its resources are
 not exploited. While land is

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