

Hay to be expensive and scarce

HARRISBURG - Pennsylvania's dairymen will find hay expensive and hard to get, Dr. Richard Adams told a group of dairy servicemen here at the Host Inn last week.

Adams is a dairy Extension specialist from the Pennsylvania State University. He spoke at a day-long seminar for servicemen, such as feed and milking equipment salesmen, lenders, veterinarians and Extension people who work with dairy farmers. The meeting was co-sponsored by Penn State and PennAg Industries Association, a trade organization of some 440 Pennsylvania agribusiness firms.

Appearing on the program

with Adams were Dr. Stephen Spencer, also a Penn State dairy Extension specialist, and representatives from PennAg and the Farmers Home Administration.

"A shortage of hay and other forages will extremely limit milk production in the state this year," Adams said. "Dairymen who weren't able to raise enough hay for themselves will be paying \$100 to \$120 a ton for hay from other people, if they can find it."

The University, Adams noted, had arranged to truck alfalfa cubes all the way from Wyoming to help feed the herds maintained by the College of Agriculture.

This year's hay crops have been hurt by bad

management and unusual weather conditions, Adams said. Damp, hot weather early in the growing season caused early maturing and a consequent loss in nutritive value for much of the state's alfalfa crop. The protein content of many crops this year will be down by 25 to 30 per cent.

More often than not, Adams said, farmers who tried to outwit the weather actually decreased the feeding value of their hay crops. "The most important consideration is to get the crop cut at the proper stage of growth," he said. "Rain isn't going to hurt hay as much as delaying the cutting date."

Adams cited one university study in which a

crop was cut then left to lay in the field for eight days. It rained six of those days. Even so, the quality of the hay was superior to that of hay from a neighboring field which had been left to stand three weeks longer and harvested under ideal conditions.

Spencer spent much of the day explaining the technical aspects of milking systems and their use and care.

"The popular farm press talks a lot about milking machine design and its affect on mastitis," Spencer said. "But design isn't nearly important as a cause of mastitis as poor sanitation and improper maintenance of the milking system."

Donald W. Parke, PennAg Industries executive vice-president, talked to a group about some of the things

which he believes are of vital concern to the dairy industry and to agriculture as a whole in Pennsylvania.

The Food and Drug Administration, Parke noted, is proposing to outlaw some low-level antibiotics which farmers administer to their dairy herds without a veterinarian's prescription. Because of the limited number of veterinarians, a prescription requirement could result in sloppy prescription practices and a lower standard of health in the nation's dairy herd.

Another threat to farmers is contained in a report called "Dietary Goals for the U.S." prepared by the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Health. On that committee are such Senate lights as McGovern, Humphrey, Dole, Percy and

Schweicker. The report calls for a drastic reduction in the amount of animal protein in the American diet. It would be used as a blueprint for setting up school lunch programs. It would also guide the government's massive diet education efforts.

"This committee report would completely write off eggs as a food for Americans," Parke said, "and it would have serious implications for the rest of animal agriculture. There is a lot of disagreement, even in the medical community, about the role of animal proteins and cholesterol in our diets."

"This report goes beyond those disagreements, though, to reach conclusions based on research which is definitely not complete."

Grange conference held

MEXICO, Pa. - The seventh Annual Region G Youth Conference was held, August 7, at Mexico, Juniata County, Pa. Grange members from Centre County filled the chairs for the afternoon session, while members from York-Adams County closed the evening session.

Over one hundred people attended. Those counties represented were: Centre, Dauphin, Cumberland, York-Adams, Juniata-Mifflin-Franklin, Perry, and Lower Northumberland-Snyder.

The contest for Region G

prince, princess and young married couple was held with the winners being: Prince: Dick Riley, York-Adams County; Princess: Judy Stringer, Centre County; Young Married Couple: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Zug, Juniata County.

An apple and peach pie contest was held with the winners being for apple pie: 1. Ruth Creider, Snyder County; 2. Beatrice Weber, Centre County; 3. Virginia Campbell, Dauphin County. The peach pie contest winners were: 1. Ruth Creider; 2. Lesta Schrieber,

Perry County; 3. Anna Sheesley, Dauphin County.

A Dutch auction was held during the evening, with James Snyder as auctioneer. Proceeds of the auction will go to the National Grange fund for 1979, when Pa. will be host to National Grange in Lancaster.

The evening session closed with a candle-lite service, led by Cumberland County.

The Region G talent nite, in charge of Gladys Sheffer, Region G State Grange Lecturer's Committee Member, will be held at Walker Grange Hall, Mexico, on October 1, beginning at 8 p.m. Pomona lecturers from the above named counties are asked to notify Mrs. Sheffer by September 24, if they have contestants to enter the regional talent.

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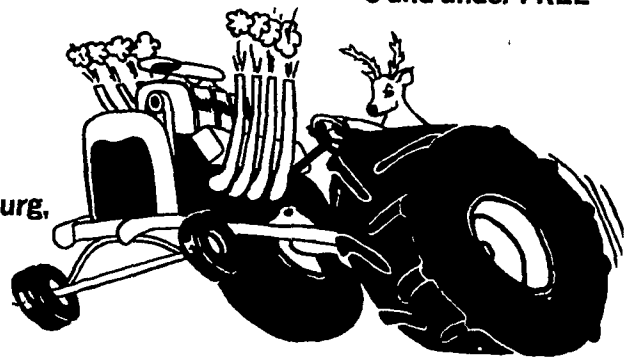
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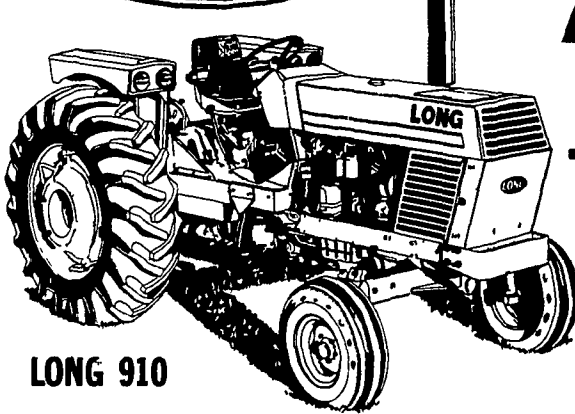
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