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Dedicated farm wives form coalition

HARRISBURG - It's not very often that a farm wife gets the chance to help make history.

But that opportunity came Tuesday as 98 farm wives and guests from across the state converged on the Penn Harris Motor Inn at Camp

Hill for the first state-wide convention of Penn's Agri-Women, a coalition of farm wife groups and individuals dedicated to helping the family farm to survive in Pennsylvania and the United States.

"Our purpose is to unite in

communicating with each other and with other consumers to promote agriculture for the benefit of the American people and the world," stated Ethel Gross, Manchester R2. The wife of a York County livestock and grain farmer, Mrs. Gross

was elected the statewide coordinator of PAW during the group's initial business meeting. The adoption of a constitution and election of officers culminated the day-long convention.

"We will function as a non-partisan action group,

serving as a voice for farmers who are themselves too busy producing abundant and inexpensive food for the world," she emphasized. Our goal is not to detract from any other organized farm group. Instead we want to share common problems

and help find solutions for the good of all farm families."

Elected to the position of assistant coordinator of Penn's Agri-Women was Naomi Spahr, Lititz R6.

(Continued on Page 28)



These Herefords on the Forney Longenecker farm near Lititz aren't bulls, but the future of the cattle industry looks bullish anyway.

Lancaster Farming photo by Dieter Krieg

Drop in cattle signals better profit margins

By DIETER KRIEG
LANCASTER - After two years of steady decline in cattle numbers, U.S. beef producers can look forward to several favorable years of business.

The improved outlook is the consensus of most cattlemen and agricultural economists.

According to the U.S. Beef Breeds Council, further improvement in demand and

price for feeder calves and yearlings is in store for the coming months. The reduction phase of the beef cattle cycle is winding down and an economic turnaround is at hand.

Liquidation of beef cows has been the most drastic in history, with cattle numbers being estimated back down to 1971 levels. According to Penn State's agricultural economist, H. Louis Moore,

cow numbers in the U.S. were down by 2 million head as of July 1, 1977 and have dropped a total of 9 million since July of 1975.

While the national trend reflects a strong downturn in

numbers, the trend in Pennsylvania has been even stronger. According to figures offered by Moore, the number of beef cows that

(Continued on Page 19)

In this issue

Farm Calendar	10
Editorial Comments	10
Medicine & Mgmt.	16
Life on the farm	18
Mall promotion	20-21
Homestead Notes	42
Jr. Cooking Edition	43
Kendy's Kolumn	44
Ida's Notebook	46
Home on the Range	48
Plant Lovers' Corner	50
Joyce Rupp	53
Farm Women Calendar	60
Classifieds	61
Dauphin DHIA	90
Penn's Agri Women	93,115
Fair Memories	98
Firewood story	100
Ten Challenge Farm	103

Population pressures will force change

By LAUREL SCHAEFFER
Berks County Reporter
SHARTLESVILLE - It couldn't have been just the family style dinner that

brought close to 240 people and all three County Commissioners to the 63rd annual meeting of the Berks County Cooperative Ex-

tension Service, held at the Shartlesville Grange Hall last Wednesday night. More likely, it was the Pennsylvania's Secretary of

Agriculture, Kent Shelhamer. The Secretary of Agriculture went on to tell the area farmers something

they probably knew already. "Agriculture is in trouble. The grain outlook is bleak." In surveying the situation

(Continued on Page 31)

Harvest in good shape despite weather

By DIETER KRIEG
LANCASTER - Despite cool and wet weather, farmers are getting their crops in and are preparing the soil for 1978 harvests.

Hindered by rain, wind, and strong cold fronts,

cropmen are nevertheless staying confident that the fruits of their labors will materialize. A storm raging through southeastern Pennsylvania earlier this week brought down some of the corn, but not to the extent

that it's considered serious. Every reasonably dry day is being taken advantage of and the corn continues to roll into bins.

According to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service, the corn harvest is

going on strong, soybean combining is beginning, most of the potatoes are dug, Fall plowing is nearing an end, most of the wheat and barley for 1978 is sown, some hay is still being made, and apples are being picked.

A survey taken by Lancaster Farming this week received the following reports:

Noah Kreider, Manheim, says they're very well along

(Continued on Page 38)