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Pennsylvanians to participate in FFA's Golden Anniversary

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - The 50th annual convention of the nation's largest vocational student organization will get under way next week as 20,000 Future Farmers of America, their advisors, and guests, gather in Kansas City, Mo., from November 8 through 11. The 1977 convention is the FFA's golden anniversary convention, launching 50th anniversary

activities which will continue through 1978.

Participating in that convention will be numerous individuals from Pennsylvania including 22 American Farmer Degree candidates, two state delegates, and a large number of representatives from chapters across the Commonwealth.

The American Farmer

Degree is the highest degree of achievement in the Future Farmers of America organization. On November 10, 801 of the nation's most distinguished FFA members will receive this honor. These American Farmers are involved in both production agriculture and in agribusiness occupations

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Dairymen's lack of concern blamed in part for surplus milk dilemma

By LAUREL SCHAEFFER
Staff correspondent

BERNVILLE -- The present problems with surplus milk are partially due to the lack of concern of dairymen. "We dairymen have just been producing it, not worrying about where it is going to go," Tom Jurchak, Lackawanna County Agent, explained.

Jurchak, who has studied milk marketing extensively,

was the guest speaker at a banquet of the Berks County Dairy Association, held October 28, at the Bernville Grange.

The marketing specialist explained the marketing problems of the dairy industry the way he saw them. Production per cow has increased an average of 10 per cent while the price of feed has decreased; and while production is climbing,

Class 1 sales have been dropping, Jurchak stated.

"Consumption has decreased 12 per cent in the past 20 years," Jurchak explained, "with the largest drops coming in the most recent years." Nutrition was part of the problem he cited for this decline. "People think these products, such as

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Farming's advances jeopardized due to Penn State's funding loss

By DIETER KRIEG

LANCASTER - "When state government denies sufficient funds to an institution of higher learning such as Penn State, it hurts a great many people in each county because Penn State's educational services reach practically every citizen in the state. Penn State's programs aren't just for adults, they're also for our youth - 4-H is now open for

suburban youths as well as rural youths - it affects farmers and suburbanites who have gardens," emphasizes Lancaster County Agent Max Smith.

Smith made the remark Thursday in reference to Penn State's budget crisis which is threatening not only programs, but the institutions' future status.

According to information released by Penn State's

Agricultural Advisory Council, Penn State has paid over \$200,000 to date just to cover interest on funds borrowed since August. The University has been borrowing \$9 million per month to keep its doors open.

The lack of funds has been detrimental to every phase of Penn State's operations, including the Extension

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Balmer wins top 4-H dairy award at Lancaster County banquet

By KENDACE BORRY

LANCASTER - Top award at the Lancaster County 4-H Club Dairy Banquet went to Carol Balmer, Lititz, Pa. The 16 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse G. Balmer is the secretary of the Golden Guernsey 4-H club and in her seventh year of 4-H work. She received her award for the highest project score in all breeds.

The 4-H'ers with high project scores in each breed were given awards, sponsored by the Pennfield Corporation. The Ayrshire winner was 11-year old Kristina Kay Esbenschade, Quarryville R2; Brown Swiss winner was Kerry E. Boyd, 19, of Ephrata R5. Carol Balmer was the recipient of the Guernsey award; and R. Steven

Kauffman, 15, of Elizabethtown R1, won the Holstein award. Jersey award winner was ten year old Patrick Bukowski, Mount Joy R1.

Over 200 people attended the banquet held at the Good 'n Plenty Restaurant, Smoketown. Entertainment for the evening was provided

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Drawing by Laurie Knowles, Lititz Record-Express

Editorial

Preserving good farmland is everybody's business

When two farmers pool their finances to pay \$569,000 for a 114-acre farm, and another farmer gives up hope in Lancaster County because land is too high priced to keep in agriculture, the facts and figures stand as an example of warped priorities.

It's nothing new. It's been going on for years.

Farmer A would love to keep farming but is burdened with such tax and real estate pressures that he can't follow his dream. Meanwhile, Farmer B outbids the developers to keep a farm in corn and tobacco instead of mushrooming houses.

Bluntly stated, it's a crime.

No farmer should be forced to give up due to land prices which exceed \$6000 per acre. No farmer should have to pay that much for farmland.

The root of the problem is two-pronged. Perhaps the first whom we should blame are those in business and industry who seek their fortunes with complete disregard for our foundations. They gobble up one farm after another and smear concrete over acres of once lush farmland. Next to blame are those who may have the authority or influence to curb indiscriminate killing

of cropland and farmers' dreams. You and I could be among those silent murderers.

Are we failing to impress the public strongly enough that agriculture is too vital to take for granted?

Apparently that's part of the dilemma.

The problem is not unique to Lancaster County, where an Amishman paid \$6400 per acre for a 47½ acre farm two weeks ago. The problem exists everywhere where developers unwittingly destroy agriculture.

My hat is off to anyone who keeps land in agriculture - especially the three Amishmen in Lancaster County who paid a combined sum of \$874,000 for a total of 161½ acres. Those three men should never have had to pay such outrageous prices for those farms. Neither should anyone else if he intends to keep farming the land

While the three, and many others like them, should be applauded for their bold act, many others both on and off the farm should stand in shame for allowing it to happen

Lancaster County Agent Max Smith hit the nail on the head when

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