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Future Farmers of America tell of pride and progress

Thousands of Future Farmers of America chapters across the country joined in celebrating FFA Week Feb. 18-25, showing the general public its pride and progress.

Special publicity campaigns and programs included roadside billboards, the distribution of FFA brochures in schools and churches, radio announcements, television appearances, and much more. This week, as a continuing salute to the Future Farmers of America, Lancaster Farming polled high schools in southeastern and central Pennsylvania to find out what various chapters did to proclaim FFA Week. The

results are printed in forthcoming sections of this article.

Boasting a national membership of 509,000, the FFA is devoted to agriculture. While it was originally intended for only those with farming interests, the vocational agriculture program today offers seven basic areas of instruction. They include production agriculture, sales and service, agricultural mechanics, agricultural products, horticulture, agricultural resources, forestry, beekeeping, and veterinary assistantships.

FFA activities and award programs complement instruction in vocational agriculture/agribusiness by

giving students practical experience in the application of agricultural skills and knowledge gained in classes. A major emphasis of the FFA is the development of leadership skills and abilities to prepare young

people for leadership roles in their agricultural careers.

To be a member of the FFA students must be enrolled in the vocational agriculture/agribusiness program in a high school or area vocational school. Students may retain their membership in the FFA following their graduation until age 21.

Pennsylvania has 20,500 FFA members, according to figures released by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The following paragraphs tell of the activities a few of the chapters undertook this week to "tell the world" of the background and purpose of

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Surplus sours dairy outlook

By DIETER KRIEG
LANCASTER - Overflowing milk supplies are beginning to take their toll on some independent dairies, a number of dairy farmers, and even cooperative marketing associations. The reason is that increased supplies of milk are creating extraordinary marketing pressures.

Although it is widely



Howard McDonald

acknowledged that 1978 will be a profitable year for dairy farmers, it's one of nervous anticipation for those who are involved in marketing the product. Some smaller milk handlers have begun to send out notices to some of their shippers that they won't be taking their milk after a certain date. In some cases, the smaller dairies are expected to close their doors, thus leaving even

more dairymen without a place to sell their milk.

The severity of the situation was brought to light earlier this week when nearly 80 officers of Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative met at the Bird-in-Hand Restaurant to assess the situation.

Eastern, the largest dairy cooperative in the East, and one of the largest in the nation, has felt the pinch and

has been charging its members a special deduction to help with the increased marketing costs. Several other cooperatives are following similar programs.

Howard McDonald, general manager of Eastern, told the nearly 80 officers of District 8, which includes the region from Lebanon County southward into the state of

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Farmer skipped in food price rise

By DIETER KRIEG
GETTYSBURG - The price of food at the retail level is expected to rise by six per cent but the farmer isn't likely to get any of that increase, according to Pennsylvania's Agriculture Secretary Kent Shelhamer. He got his figures from the United States Department of Agriculture and revealed his interpretation of them at the recent Pennsylvania-Mary-

land Roadside Marketing Conference, held here at the Sheraton Inn.

Shelhamer, himself a farmer and roadside marketer, announced however, that those who are in a position to sell direct to consumers may have the opportunity to share in the price rise.

Praising the direct marketing concept for its high efficiency, the state's



Kent Shelhamer

agriculture chief cited USDA figures to bolster his opinion of roadside marketing. "Most fruits and vegetables sold in this state are shipped hundreds of miles," he began, "likewise with milk, and the average chicken purchased in the United States has traveled more than 1000 miles before it reaches the consumer's table."

Shelhamer has been

pushing roadside marketing for a number of years and continues to work for greater development of the idea in the Keystone state. His lack of support from the federal level has him vocally upset, particularly since he believes Pennsylvania has one of the finest direct marketing programs to be found in the nation. "Last year," said the Secretary,

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Bill Fisher is named a Pork All-American

By DIETER KRIEG
EAST EARL - Lancaster County pork producer Bill Fisher has been named a Pork All-American by the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council. The announcement came a week ago during the annual meeting of that group, held jointly with the Lancaster County Pork Producers

Association's annual banquet at the Harvest Drive Restaurant near Intercourse.

Fisher, a 30-year old farmer who predicts the swine industry in Lancaster County will boom in coming years, received the honor on the basis of his achievements with swine and his involvement in professional and civic

organizations. Married and the father of two children, the young farmer will get national recognition for his work when the American Pork Congress convenes its meeting in Kansas City, Mo. next month.

A day before Fisher was recognized by his fellow pork producers, his companions in the Garden Spot Young Farmers Association



Bill Fisher

recognized him as their outstanding member. That award also came on the basis of his work with swine, as well as Charolais cattle and management of over 300 acres of crop and pasture land. Separate stories on both the pork producers' meeting and the Garden Spot Young Farmer Association

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Let us never forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of man.