

Farmers advised of potential energy savings

LEBANON — George B. Wolff, chairman of the Lebanon County Conservation District, spoke recently about a major energy saving method that should be used by farmers. Present day farms are energy demanding for crop and livestock production, and purchasing this energy

in its various forms is the major cost in a farming operation. The farmer that makes the most efficient use of the energy he has available is the farmer that will generally have the greatest profit margin.

The chairman noted that most farmers are aware of the energy they use for lighting, heating, drying, processing, and mobile power but he questioned whether they were aware of the tremendous energy needed to manufacture fertilizer, quarry and pulverize limestone, or to supply supplemental water to crops.

The energy equivalent of five tons of coal is needed to produce one ton of nitrate fertilizer. A quarter ton of coal energy equivalent is used to quarry, pulverize, process and transport a ton of hydrated lime and depending on the lift, distance and volume required, pumping water for crop irrigation can add more energy and equipment costs than can be absorbed by the increased yields.

The district official stressed the conservation of energy through the conservation of the soil and water resources on the farm. Farmers using con-

servation practices retain most of the rainfall that the farm receives and can then use this soil moisture for crop production. Conservation practices also retain the fertilizers, other crop nutrients and the soil to produce increased yields and improved quality in the crops.

Many pesticides are petroleum-based derivatives that can only be compounded from certain fractions in crude oil. Conservation practices allow these compounds to stay in the field and control weeds, insects, and crop diseases so that crop yields will be in-

creased. These pesticides are toxic, and allowing a percentage of the applied materials to wash from the fields and into streams can cause hazards to streamlife and others that use the streams as lakes.

When muddy water flows from farm fields, energy dollars are flowing with it, said Wolff. The conservation district offers the services of technicians to farmers who wish to control stormwater runoff and the nutrients and sediments that are carried along. There is no charge for the services of the district. Call 717-272-3377 today, and

request the services of trained technicians, concluded Chairman Wolff.

Holstein

(Continued from Page 130) organizations and private owners of top U.S. bulls.

Another highlight of the year was the signing of a three year technical assistance agreement with Hungary. Traveling to Hungary, specialists from the United States will consult with the new owners of U.S. Holsteins to insure their success.

The first graduates of the Holstein Sire Development Service, the young sire sampling program of HFS, Inc., came up with strong sire summary proofs.

A young sire from Ohio, Straight-Pine Elevation Pete, attained +1157 Predicted Difference for Milk (PDM), +1.08 Predicted Difference for Type (PDT) and +318 Total Performance Index (TPI) and is now at the artificial insemination firm of Select Sires. Witelyn Bootmaker Rumler reached +973 PDM, +.50 PDT and +227 TPI and was leased to American Breeders Service. All five graduates, which have both a type and production summary, are +100 TPI and higher.

In 1977, 116 bulls were sold or leased domestically through HSDS while 72 bulls were sold on the foreign market. Thirty-seven young sires were sampled.

Being named HSDS manager in April, Jim Copper laid the groundwork for new sampling procedures and incentives during 1977. The changes allow HSDS to adequately sample more bulls in a shorter time, improve semen distribution and offer an attractive package of incentives to cooperator herds.



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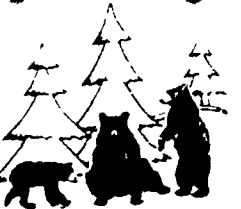
We do. The Farm Credit System. Millions of tons of meat, grain, fruits, melons, berries, other crops that move from the farm, ranch, or orchard into storage, processing and marketing by farmer cooperatives. We're the Production Credit Associations, and Federal Land Banks. Owned by and operated for the benefit of farmers and growers.



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