

Lebanon Co. Extension banquet

Bair recounts Bahamian experience

By **SALLY BAIR**
Staff correspondent

LEBANON — With predictions of more snow ringing in their frostbitten ears, 200 Lebanon Countians were able to relax and dream of warmer temperatures Tuesday night as they listened to County Agent Newton J. Bair relate his experiences in the Bahama Islands at the 61st annual meeting of the Lebanon County Extension Service. In other business at the meeting held at the Mt. Zion fire hall, new officers were elected for the executive committee.

Bair returned in January

from a two-year stay on San Andros Island working on the Bahamas Agricultural Research, Training and Development Project, sponsored jointly by the government of the Bahamas and the United States Agency for International Development. Bair worked under a contract with The Pennsylvania State University.

Calling it "the beginning of something better for the Bahamas," Bair said the project originated to help the Bahamians realize some of the potential for providing their own food. Currently,

they import 85 per cent of their food needs.

Andros Island, the largest of the Bahamian chain, is 2300 square miles, with 8000 people. The island consists of coral, a soft, porous limestone rock, which Bair said is still forming geologically.

Fresh water is abundant because rain is absorbed in the pores of the rocks and trapped in a "lens" which holds the fresh water above the salt water below it and around the island. The average height of land above sea level on the island is four feet.

The land is covered with

native pine and shrubs, and 2000 acres of this was cleared for the research project and for the 16 demonstration farms which are now in operation.

Traditionally, Bahamians used the "slash and burn" method of clearing the land, with some hand clearing. Where the vegetation was burned off, farming would be established in the small amount of soil among the rocks. Known as "pothole farming" this provided some supplemental food. Most of this farming is done by women, Bair said, because the men are traditionally fishermen.

For the project, virgin land was cleared and the rubble pushed in large windrows. Eventually, the wood was salvaged from the windrows and used for building fence. With a great deal of work, the rock is eventually broken up, leaving soil material "which was almost pure lime," Bair said. The soil had a pH of 8-8.2, a level which Bair said is extremely difficult to bring down.

To make the soil reasonably productive, he said. "We added a lot of fertilizer. Last year we used 1000 tons of fertilizer. We were lavish with it, using 1500-2000 pounds per acre before seeding." The fertilizer was complete, with an 8-18-8 analysis.

Since the project began as a livestock venture, a lot of research was done on forage

crops. Many tropical grasses were tried, but had not been successful because they could not survive the dry periods. However, Bair noted, "We found the tropical legumes do very well. They can extend their root system and will go through the rainy season."

Alfalfa varieties were planted and yielded up to nine cuttings per year, with seven to nine tons per acre. "We feel alfalfa has great potential, and had several hundred acres planted in alfalfa when I left." Making alfalfa hay is not without problems, however. In the rainy season it is not uncommon to get three or four inches of rain in a day. "The hay got rained on a lot," Bair said. He added that last Winter the project suffered its first recorded freeze, and

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Newly elected officers of the Lebanon County Extension Executive Committee are: from left, Richard C. Kreider, Lebanon R 1, president; Ray Sattazahn, Lebanon 2, vice-president; Mrs. Mark Bomberger, Lebanon R 1, secretary; and Clair Gerberich, Jonestown, Route 1, treasurer.

PUBLIC SALE

OF FARM MACHINERY

Along Route 272, 16 mile South of Lancaster, 4 mile South of "The Buck".

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

12:00 noon

1974 White tractor 2255 diesel w/3208 V8 Cat 145 H.P. w/cab & heater, wide front, wheel weights and new dual wheels, 556 hrs.

1977 White 2-85 diesel 85 H.P., 450 hrs., cab w/air cond. & heat.

1977 John Deere 2040 diesel 40 H.P., weights, w/John Deere #37 manure loader.

Minneapolis Moline 16 in. 6 bottom hyd. auto. reset plow, Oliver 4 bottom 16 in. semi-mounted plow, White #253 14 ft. transport disc, Taylor-way 12 ft. chisel plow.

1975 White 7300 diesel combine, 340 hrs., cab, van & heater, 13 ft. soybean & grain floating head & 4 row narrow corn head.

Fox Brady grain wagon 20 ton running gears 425 bu. box w/bottom unloading & hyd. auger unloading (like new), Allied 8 in. grain auger 60 ft. long, Gilmore-Tage Model 370 grain dryer used 2 yrs., Flow E-Z gravity bin Model 300, New Holland Model 1012 auto. bale wagon, Massey Harris #10 baler, John Deere crimper, Fox chopper w/1 row cornhead, Grove forage wagon, Massey Ferguson #24 forage wagon, John Deere 1240 plate corn planter, IHC 14 ft. culti-mulcher, hyd. dump wagon, Myers snow blade for tractor or truck.

1964 Chevrolet pickup.

1966 Dodge 700 w/ 9:00-20 nearly new rubber, White high pressure washer.

Forks, chains, shovels and other articles not mentioned.

Terms by

RALPH S. TREGO

717-548-3430

J. Everett Kreider & Carl Diller, Aucts.
Lunch furnished.

PUBLIC AUCTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

At 11:00 A.M.

1 mile North of Rife and Rt. 209; 3 miles West of Elizabethville; 3 miles East of Millersburg (watch for auction sign along Rt. 209 the day of sale).

FARM EQUIPMENT

Ford 871 Select-o-Speed Tractor (1400 hrs.) excellent condition; Ford Semi-Mounted single row corn picker; Ford 14" 3-bottom plow; Ford mower; NH 68 baler PTO; NH 56 rake; Ford 3-pt cultivator; 16' flatbed wagon; Case 30' bale and grain elevator with B&S engine; Int. No. 30 manure spreader; 3-section harrow; cultipacker; Case 2-row cornplanter; dump rake; 6' blade with 2' extension 3-pt.; cornsheller; bag truck; platform scale; grain box; 8' metal chute; tractor Jack; hog feeders; troughs; surge milker; vacuum pump; water heater; wash tubs; grease guns; pipes; forks; misc. tools; egg grader & washer; chicken nests & feeders; electric & coal brooders; cream separator; swimming pool filter pump & diving board; tires & wheels; fence wire; scrap iron; other items.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS & COLLECTIBLES

Oak Sideboard; Oak Claw foot table with 4 boards; Oak bed & bureau; stands rockers; wood chest; Morris chair; meat grinder; sausage stuffer; butcher kettle; crocks; jugs; dated jars; hay hook; straw knife; wooden pulleys; games; computer scale; other items not listed

Owners

JOHN D. MATTER & DOROTHY A. MATTER

George N. Deibert, Auct.

Lunch Available

Order of sale: Tools & Farm Equipment will be sold first. There are not many small items.

AUCTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
CONSIGNMENT SALE OF
FARM & INDUSTRIAL
TRACTORS, TRUCKS
AND EQUIPMENT

To be held at Darrow's Used Tractors, Rte. 13, Sheds, N.Y. Approx. 25 miles East of Cortland, N.Y., and just North of DeRuyter, N.Y.

This is one of New York's largest machinery auctions

50-75 TRACTORS

Plus lots of farm equipment. Consignments arriving every day. Plan to make this sale, no matter how far - it'll be worth your while!

For more information, Call: Carl Darrow 315-662-3876; Ed Goodrich Jr. 607-729-2866 or write to us at:

Sale Managed By

GOODRICH
AUCTION SERVICE
1153 Oakdale Road,
Johnson City, N.Y. 13790

Auctioneers:

Ed Goodrich Jr., Johnson City, N.Y.
Howard Visscher, Nichols, N.Y.

PUBLIC SALE

FARM MACHINERY
SATURDAY, MARCH 18

At 10:00 A.M.

Located in Mifflin Co., 2½ miles Northeast of Reedsville, Pa., on the Honey Creek Road, 1st lane on left past Kauffman's Dairy.

IH No. 3200 hydrostatic skid loader, IH 656 hydro. Dsl. tractor run 2000 hrs., New IH No. 450-3-16 in. auto reset plow, JD 2010 Dsl. tractor, dual No. 300 heavy duty hyd. loader, NH No. 268 baler w/thrower in good repair, New NH No. 38 flail chopper, Port-a-wagon w/steel feeder and bale rack, 3 NH wide track wagons w/new bale racks, NH farmec 26 ft. elevator, NH No. 479 haybine real good, JD 894A rola bar rake, New JD No. 65 hopper blower, NH blower pipe, NH No. 327-130 bu. single beater manure spreader, Brillion 12 ft. cultipacker seeder w/wheels, IH No. 249A corn planter w/fiberglass boxes, IH No. 46 transport disc, 12 ft. harrow, Agway trail sprayer w/250 gal. fibre tank, wagon chassis, hyd. post driver, Ford F-3 pickup truck needs repairs.

Surge SP 22 milker pump, Jamesway feed cart, Shenandoah stock creep feeder, 2 mineral salt boxes, about 15 tons 2nd cutting hay mostly alfalfa, 20 bags 10-20-10 fertilizer, 2 English and 1 western saddles, bridle, grease gun, log chains, some used tires, a lot of new bolts and washers, some hand tools and misc. farm items in a clean up sale.

Terms - CASH Lunch at Sale

MRS. GEORGE W. ELDER
R.D. #1 Reedsville, Pa.

Mark Glick - Auctioneer
Reedsville, Pa.