

# Lancaster Farming

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## Actor doesn't take soil for granted

By DIETER KRIEG  
CAMP HILL - Television actor Eddie Albert doesn't take the soil for granted. In fact, he has a high level of respect for the land and the people who work with it professionally. "Farming is the only true source of

wealth for a nation - agriculture is renewable, rather than finite like coal," he told a group of farmers here on Wednesday.

Albert, star of the current television series "Switch," and "Green Acres" from a few years ago, takes

agriculture very seriously. Although he's not a farmer, he considers himself to be a "mouthpiece" for farmers, and has even gone to Washington, D.C. to state his opinions on agricultural and nutritional matters.

Albert's most recent trip

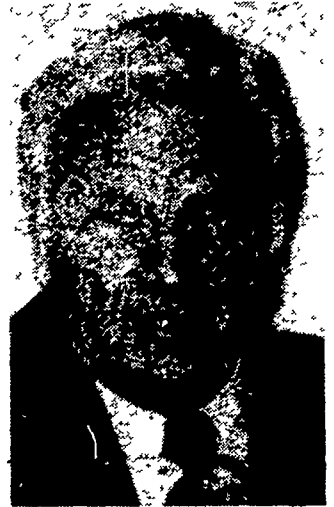
to the nation's capital came Wednesday, when after leaving central Pennsylvania, he was due to testify before the McGovern Committee the following day. His topic, he revealed, would be nutrition.

"When you talk nutrition,

you should begin with the soil," he said emphatically. "That's where it all starts."

A growing world population, the deterioration and erosion of the land, and a general turning away from wholesome foods are the chief reasons for Albert's motivation on behalf of agriculture. Perhaps more of an environmentalist and ecologist than farmer, Albert claims he has seen the devastating effects of poor planning and management. He wants to try and do his part to change the scene.

The television actor is not at all pleased with McGovern Committee's



Eddie Albert

dietary suggestions. The government's findings would have people believe that animal proteins are un-

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## N.J. milk bill alarms Shelhamer

HARRISBURG - Pennsylvania's Agriculture Secretary Kent Shelhamer warned Wednesday that a bill recently passed by the New Jersey Assembly could have serious effects on the milk production processing and distribution system throughout the New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania region.

Shelhamer said that the bill, A-727, which is awaiting action by Governor Byrne, would require New Jersey milk dealers to buy 25 per cent of their milk from New Jersey producers, in order to be licensed. He noted that the bill was rushed through the state Assembly as part of a deal for authorization for temporary casino gambling licenses.

Shelhamer said that many New Jersey farmers are involved with milk producing cooperatives which cross state lines, in both New York and Pennsylvania, and suggested that the bill, as passed by the Assembly could be considered a restraint on trade. "Federal Courts have held that states may not interfere with the shipment of milk from state to state," he said.

Shelhamer explained that a majority of milk producers in eastern Pennsylvania, southeastern New York and New Jersey have supply and distribution patterns which are channelled through markets in Allentown, New York City and Philadelphia. "In order to guarantee the provisions of this bill," he said, "cooperatives would be faced with severing their already existing supply patterns. Routes would have to be changed, and hauling and processing costs would be significantly increased, resulting in higher consumer costs."

The New Jersey bill came into being as a result of 80 dairymen in northern New Jersey having lost their market. The producers were cut off by handlers because of the severity of the milk surplus crunch which is being felt nearly everywhere in the country. Aside from the 80 shippers cut off by the dairies, an additional 120 dairymen have received warnings that they might also lose their markets if some upgrading of conditions isn't made on their part.

Assemblyman Robert F.

Littel, representing Sussex, Warren, and parts of Atlantic Counties, introduced A-727 into the New Jersey legislature, Lancaster Farming was told.

According to Kathryn

Clark, legislative liaison for the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the bill has not received any significant opposition so far. It has been passed by both the Assembly

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## LeHi Co-op regains momentum

ALLENTOWN - Lehigh Valley Cooperative Farmers reported a record sales increase and further improvement in its financial condi-

tion for the fiscal year ending January 31, 1978.

Sales for the 750-member organization, the largest milk processing cooperative

in Pennsylvania, increased to \$104 million from \$98.9 million the previous year, Robert P. Barry, president, reported to the annual meeting here on Tuesday.

Loss from operations show a dramatic decline to \$394,854 compared to a loss from operations of \$1.2 million sustained the previous year, and represents a marked improvement in the cooperative's financial condition, Barry stated.

He pointed out that the cooperative achieved profitable operations for the final five months of its fiscal year but was unable to overcome losses resulting from an extended strike which closed Philadelphia area supermarkets and from costs associated with start-up of a block cheese line at the Allentown plant.

"Without these two factors, Lehigh would have attained the break-even point in operations," he said.

"Based on our current performance rate, we are projecting a profit for the current fiscal year of \$500,000," Barry told the meeting.

He said this turnaround would be on target in accordance with the five-year program initiated by the new administration when it

assumed management of the cooperative in mid-1974. The program called for extensive reorganization and restructuring of the company, plant improvement and equipment modernization, and revitalizing of marketing and sale activities.

In less than four years, losses have been reduced substantially from \$3.0 million, Barry noted. Membership has increased from a low of 628 to the current 750 and is continuing to rise.

An important step during the year, he told the meeting, was formation of Atlantic Dairy Processing Co., a wholly-owned subsidiary, which has initiated production and marketing of

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Robert Barry



Alpheus Ruth

## Feeder pig prices escalating

By KENDACE BORRY  
LANCASTER - Prices of graded feeder pigs have risen sharply in the past two weeks, with New Holland quoting their feeder pigs U.S. 1-2, 30 to 40 lbs. bringing \$126 to \$142 per hundredweight at their sale this past Wednesday. While those

prices were slightly lower than those gotten last week, they are still way above the prices for feeder pigs one month ago.

According to the Pa. auction report, which covers the New Holland, Lancaster, and Wilmington sales in Pa., during the week ending April 1, the graded feeder pig

market was strong to \$20 higher, with spots \$30 higher. They reported U.S. 1-2, 30 to 40 lbs. bringing \$127 to \$150.

John Zimmerman, chief of the livestock division of the bureau of markets in the Pa. Dept. of Agriculture, said that there appears to be a slightly shorter supply of pigs, with both the New

Holland and Lancaster market supplies a little lower than usual. Although, he added there was a much bigger run this past week at New Holland, with over 1500 hogs, compared to the 80 sold last week. This 1500 was more than was sold at that

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## County agent honored in York

By DIETER KRIEG  
YORK - "It isn't what I do, it's what gets done together," said John Smith modestly and sincerely when a group of York County farmers presented him with a plaque in honor of 25 years of service to their community.

Smith, director of the Cooperative Extension Service for York County, was described as "one of York County's genuine

assets" by George Williams of the York County Agricultural and Home Economics Extension Service Committee. "Few people are as dedicated as John Smith," Williams told the group of about 150 people who gathered for the 60th annual meeting and banquet of the organization. The evening event took place March 31 at Avalong's Restaurant, here.

Smith, who has been in

Extension work for 30 years, was caught by surprise when Williams praised him and his contributions to York County agriculture. Stepping to the podium to receive his plaque, the amiable agriculturalist and educator

said that his work requires the cooperation of many other people in order to be successful. He acknowledged help from farmers, staff members at the Extension Service, county com-

missioners, and parents of 4-H'ers.

The 4-H program which Smith directs in part is one of the most successful in the country and ranks as one of his most significant achievements. At last Summer's state-wide 4-H Achievement Days at University Park, for example, York County youths emerged with an

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John Smith

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