

Family Farm Development Act included

Carter signs Ag Credit Bill

WASHINGTON -- House Rose Garden on August 4. This legislation, now law, is to relieve the credit crunch many farmers

are experiencing due to low farm prices and high operating costs.

Also, Title 4 of the Family Farm Development Act (H.R. 10716) was attached to this bill and is now law. This title contained an innovative, FmHA ownership loan program for small farmers and farm production cooperatives, at low-interest, low-payment levels.

Representative George Brown, (D-Calif.), sponsor of the Family Farm Development Act was elated over this turn of events. "Small farmers have been ignored in recent years. Their credit needs have gone unaddressed due to a lack of interest and recognition of their contribution to our agricultural system", Brown said. "There are 1.6 million farmers with less than \$20,000 in gross sales. Until now these farmers were turned away by private and public lending institutions alike. They now have somewhere to go."

The small farm loan program will provide - 1) farm ownership loans at low,

5% interest levels; 2) a system of ballooned payments whereby a farmer can pay less principal and interest at first with the difference amortized in later years; 3) funds for farm production cooperatives and small farmers, otherwise unable to obtain credit through other private and public sources.

The National Family Farm Coalition, an organization of groups and individuals established to move the Family Farm Development Act through Congress, applauded this happening. "The future of our agricultural system and our rural communities may be in the hands of our small farmers," a spokesperson for the Coalition said. Brown agreed strongly. "Costs of large-scale, energy-intensive farming will continue to go up as our soil condition erodes in the coming decade. The small family farmer, who is closer to the land and his community, represents an alternative to this highly mechanized form of farming which should be scrutinized closely", Brown said.

This small farm loan

program is one of nine titles in the Family Farm Development Act. This Act attempts to support the maintenance of a strong family farm system of agriculture through amendments of the tax structure, price support systems, conservation practices, marketing programs, research and education programs. Brown hopes to move the remaining eight titles of the bill through the Congress next year.

U of D farm and home field day scheduled

NEWARK, Del. - The University of Delaware's annual Farm and Home Field Day has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 9 this year, at the University Substation, located six miles west of Georgetown on the Laurel-Georgetown Highway (Route 9). Activities begin at 9:30 a.m. and include features of interest to both the farmer and the homemaker.

Farmers will have a chance to tour corn, soybean, vegetable and ornamental research and demonstration plots as well as the University's swine facility. Researchers and

4-H club meets

VIRGINVILLE - The Virginville dairy and swine club held its monthly meeting on July 17, at the home of Alton Rohrbach.

The meeting was called to order by President Scott Miller. Members talked about the 4-H fair which is on August 24, and about the Kutztown Fair which is August 14-19.

The winners for the Berks County Junior Holstein Club field day were named. The 8-10 year old in fitting was Henry Seidel who got third, 11-12 year old in fitting was Todd Miller who placed second, 11-12 year old showing was Todd Miller who received second, 13-14 year old in showing was Jan Adam who got fifth, and 13-14 year old in fitting was Terry Snyder who also received fifth.

After the meeting Allen Rohrbach demonstrated how to show and clip a pig. The next meeting will be August 21, at 8 p.m. at the home of Kenny Kershner.

Extension personnel will be on hand to discuss their work as well as to lead the bus and wagon tours. They will acquaint farmers with some of the Agricultural Experiment Station's and Cooperative Extension Service's innovative efforts on behalf of improved farm production in Delaware.

The home economics program will include a 10:00 a.m. "Back-to-School" fashion show in the Substation meeting room. There will also be a smoking demonstration and an exhibit of clothing that children can easily manage by themselves.

A traditional fried chicken lunch will be available in the grove at noon. Tickets cost \$2.50. The day's activities close with a watermelon break at 3:30.

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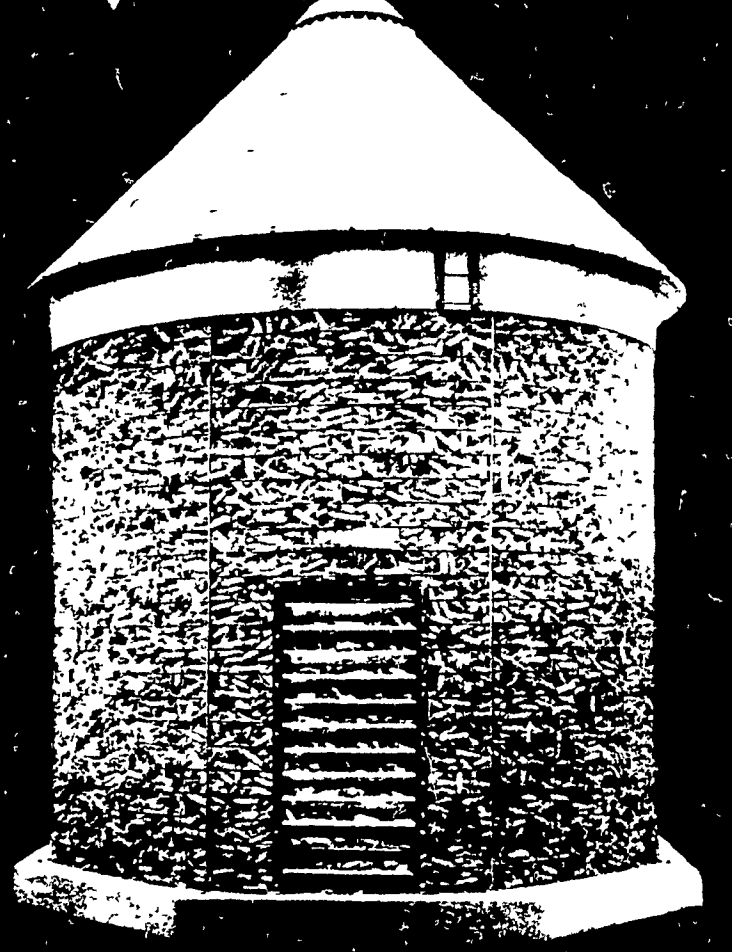
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