

# Shelhamer praises Lancaster Co. court ruling

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Kent D. Shelhamer on Monday praised the decision of Lancaster County Court Judge D. Richard Eckman, who ruled last week that the

construction and operation of a poultry house in Providence Township does not constitute a nuisance.

As a result of that decision, Robert and Glenda Weaver may build and run a poultry operation on their 23.22 acre

farm. Neighbors had sought an injunction to restrain the Weavers from completion of the project, claiming that the poultry house would cause a nuisance through noise, dust and odor. Shelhamer called the

ruling "a strong positive step. It proves that the public is recognizing the needs of the agricultural community."

Pennsylvania is the leading agricultural state in the Northeast, with 72,000 family farms which annually produce crops, livestock and poultry valued at over \$2.1 billion. Lancaster County is the leading agricultural county in the Commonwealth.

"We cannot permit the loss of more farmland or farm operations. Preservation of the farm unit and family are just as important as the land itself," Shelhamer said. "Our farmers are a finite resource and deserve the same kinds of protection that we give our environment."

Environmental goals are admirable, but they must be balanced with concern for our agricultural production. When modern technology is designed to minimize problems such as noise, dust and odor, environmental and production goals can be compatible.

"It is not inconceivable that a factory or a housing tract be halted for farmland, but too often, a farm operation is torn apart for those same suburban developments or industrial parks," Shelhamer said. "Perhaps the ruling by Judge Eckman will bring the needs of the rural community into a better public focus."

The Agriculture Secretary noted that in the past decade, many urban residents have moved into the country to take advantage of the open space and the pastoral atmosphere — the "country life."

But while recognizing the benefits of the country life, these same residents often fail to see the many positive contributions of our farms to that standard of living.

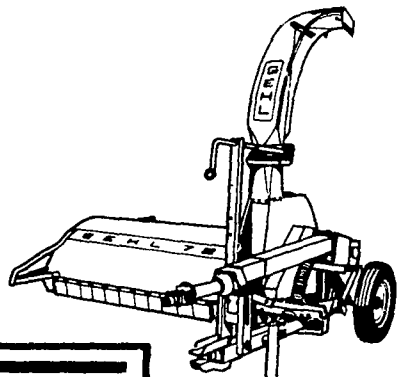
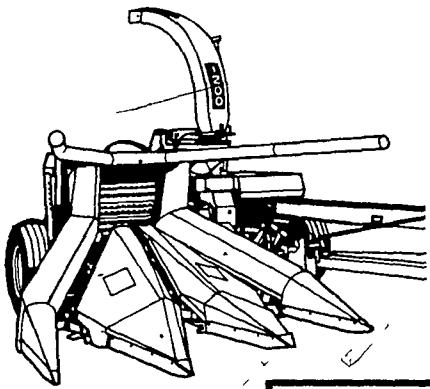
When environmental concerns and the need for farm production are weighed in the minds of these residents, it seems that the farm operation always comes out short.

"Our farmers have taken on the burden of providing food and fiber for the consumers of the nation and a

large part of the world," Shelhamer said. "And to do that job effectively calls on them to sacrifice much time, effort and investments in major capital improvements. To stand in the way of a continued prosperous agriculture would jeopardize our own future. This should not be permitted."

"It is gratifying that Judge Eckman has recognized the effectiveness of the modern technology which allows our farmers to maintain their tremendous production records while having a minimal effect on the environment. I am sure that this ruling will be seen throughout the Northeast as a wise decision which will work to the benefit of both the farmer and the consumer alike."

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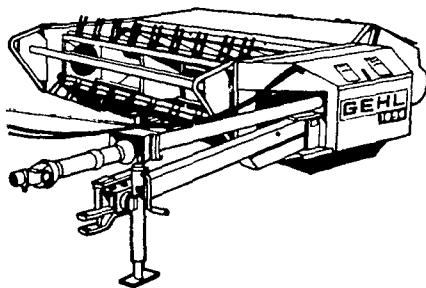
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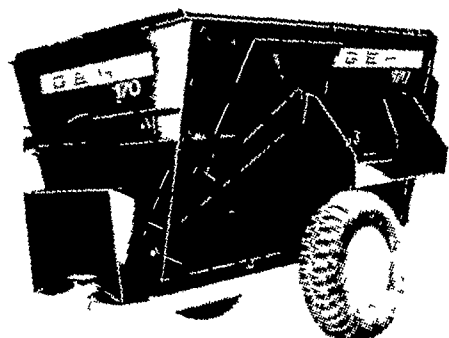
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## Holstein banquet slated

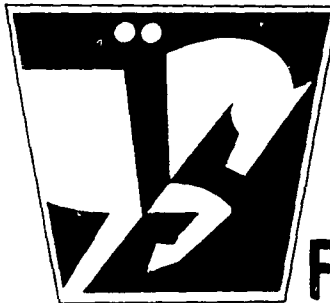
LANCASTER — The 28th annual Lancaster County Holstein Club banquet will be held November 14 at 6:45 p.m. at the Good'n Plenty Restaurant, Smoketown. Tickets are \$6 per person and should be purchased by November 7.

Tickets may be secured from the following Lancaster County Holstein Club members:

Gary Akers, Joe Wivell, John Barley, Ken Rutt,

Robert Kauffman, Jr., P. Robert Wenger, Earl Stauffer, Loren Zimmerman, J. Robert Kendig, Nathan Stoltzfus, Robert Groff, Dale Peifer, Clyde Buchen, Elam Bollinger, Melvin Eby, Robert Kauffman, Jay Landis, Elvin Hess, Albert Fry, Henry Kettering, Maurice Welk, John Kreider, Paul Welk, Glenn Hershey, Clyde Martin, Nelson Wenger, Galen Crouse, and Linda Kauffman.

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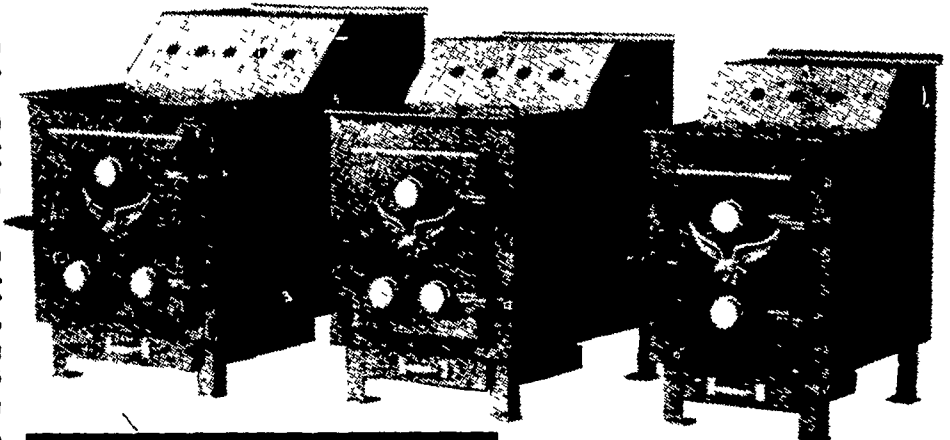


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