### Chester-Del. Co. farm tour to be Nov. 18-19

NOTTINGHAM — The Chester Delaware County Farmers' Association will hold their annual Farm-City Weekend on November 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on November 19 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Every November, farm families who are members of the Association open their businesses to help promote better understanding between the farmer and consumer. Twenty-one farms in Chester County are open this year, making this the largest and most varied tour of local agriculture available. Orchards, dairies, poultry operations and greenhouses are among the more familiar sights included in this year's open house, but one can also see purebred Arabian horses, an exotic cactus mushrooms collection, growing in trays, tomatoes being raised without soil, and 8,000,000 worms under one roof.

Hosts for this year's Farm-City Weekend are: Charles Gable, who farms 200 acres, mostly corn and alfalfa. He also has 100 head of registered Ayrshire in a conventional tre-stall barn and a free-stall heifer barn.

Meadowoode Farms, run by Frank and Robert Stoltzfus, is 370 acres of mostly corn with a few acres of grain and hay. They finish 2,000 hogs a year and 35 steers a year, and raise 30,000 pullets. They also own a grain dryer and do custom combining and drying.

Batchelor's Flowers is a retail florist operation; with nine greenhouses growing plants for the holidays.

Hydroponic Systems, Inc. is where one can see the new method of growing food. A beautiful tomato crop is being grown in liquid fer-

tilizer. There is no soil, peat moss, sand or stone. Seeds planted on July 3, 1978 are four feet tall and loaded with tomatoes. There should be a continuous crop until June of 1979. This method causes tomatoes to grow fast, in great volume, and to grow for more than 12 months.

My-T-Hi Farm, owned by S. Horace Mowrer and family, is a sixth generation dairy farm with 125 Holsteins and 120 replacement heifers. Cows are milked in tie stall barn with pipeline milkers and fed with electric feed carts and bunk feeder. There are also 650 acres of corn, hay and small grain on this farm.

Bill and Janna Cracas, have a poultry farm with 14,000 laying hens in automated cage system and an in-line grading system to prepare eggs for market. Eggs are sold retail and wholesale at farm and marketed through **Producers** Pride Collecting Cooperative. times are 9 to 10:30 a.m. and 3 to 5 p.m.

Nussex Farms, West Chester is an orchard and retail market; with 160 fruit trees, including apple, peach, plum, cherry. They produce 50,000 gallons of cider annually. A full line of vegetables are grown and baked goods are available.

Alta-Vista Farm, owned by Harry Bickel, is a modern 250 acre dairy farm with free stalls and 60 cows. Crops include corn, hay and small grains.

Far Out Cactus Greenhouse features the largest collection of cactus on East Coast, and 1500 varieties can be viewed in a typical greenhouse operation from seed growing to retail sales.

Modern Mushroom Farms, Inc. is the largest and most modern mushroom growing plant in the East. Visitors can view every phase of mushroom growing.

Pratt's Greenhouse consists of eight greenhouses covering 27,500 square feet;

four of the greenhouses are double plastic, air inflated to conserve fuel. Sale and delivery of potted plants is made to retailers within a 25 mile radius. The carnation range was conveited to poinsettias, cyclamen, gloxinia, reiger begonia,

kalanchoe, ferns, foliage and hanging plants.

Wilkinson Farms has 300 cows milked on an eight stall Boumatic carousel parlor, housed in two 170 feet by 50 feet free stall barns. Feeding is done by mixer wagon. Silage, haylage and

high moisture corn are stored in trenches. The farm is presently growing 800 acres of corn, 300 acres of small grain, 500 acres of hay, and 400 acres soybeans. Milking starts at 2 p.m. and

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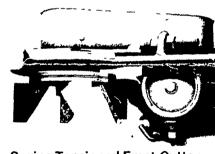
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