## **Changing farm finance** structure affects local bank

## By SALLY BAIR Staff Writer

LANCASTER - In six Southern Pennsylvania counties there are 15,700 farms, 22 per cent of the total in Pennsylvania. Five of the six counties rank in the top ten in the state for gross cash farm income from crops and livestock production, and,

fifty percent of the total value of production in the Keystone state in some agricultural commodities.

For National Central Bank, these figures mean potential - potential to serve a prosperous, thriving agriculture community. Because of the lush

production of their service

combined, they provide over area, National Central Bank loans is about \$37 million. jumped from the 69th to the Boyd noted that there were 44th largest bank in only three other banks in the agricultural lending in 1978. National Central in gain in

United States that exceeded

Of course, part of National Central's spectacular

growth can be attributed to

the changing structure of

financing for farms. Boyd

said, "Ten to fifteen years

ago the average financial

need of a farm was nominal

compared to what they are

asking for today. It is not

unusual for agriculture

credit to go well over a half

million dollars in some

Boyd says inflation is

probably the largest con-

tributor to the fact that farm

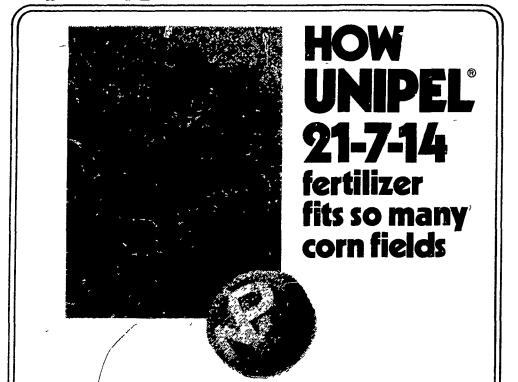
loans are significantly

cases."

ranking in 1978.

According to Darvin Boyd, director of the agri-finance department at National Central, the loan growth in 1977 showed 51 per cent jump over the previous year, and 38.5 per cent growth in 1978. The total level of current

Darvin Boyd, left, and John E. Moose go over some of the records in their Agri-Finance Department of National Central Bank. Boyd is director and Moose, assistant director.



larger now than even a decade ago. However, such items as the need for specialization, mechanization and the present precarious oil situation also contribute to the skyrocketing need for larger sums.

Boyd also pointed out that the average family farm in Lancaster County is 80 acres. With land going for between \$4500 and \$6500 per acre, he said, it is important that the farm family look at other options and not just plan to buy additional land. He said farmers must consider getting into other productive enterprises to complement their present operation; in many cases. this may mean adding a layer or broiler facility, or some other means of adding to the income. In many cases a farm family may need additional income to support more than one family as children grow up and choose to join in the farm operation.

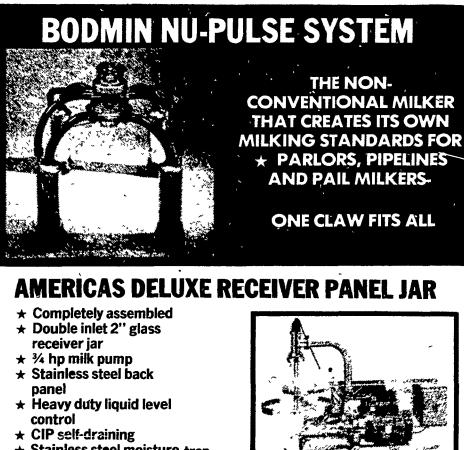
As far as young people going into agriculture, Darvin states, "There's no

question that it's very dif. ficult to get into farming uf there is no assistance from families." He said most young people they work with do have help from families.

"We live in a very unusual area with respect to the character of the people, and we see a lot of enthusiasm about going into farming and making it a career. Agriculture is big business and we need managers today, not just workers," he stated.

Boyd notes that National Central believes firmly that agriculture, and the family farm, is the backbone of America. He says it is particularly true of the productive agricultural area of south central and southeastern Pennsylvania. He said, "One of our primary objectives is to serve and help preserve the family farm. We see it as the cornerstone of agriculture in our service area."

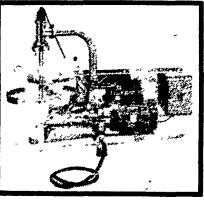
"There is no question that we have structured our efforts to allow us to give (Turn to Page 109)



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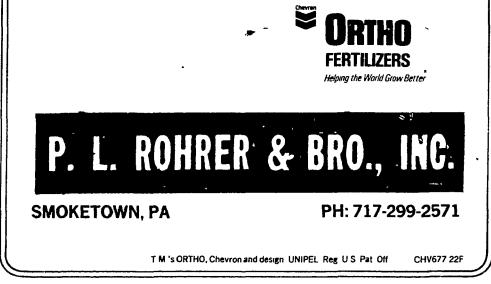
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