

Farm - City Week climaxes year

HARRISBURG — A year round program of farm and city events will climax during the week of November 16-22 with the 25th anniversary of Farm-City Week.

This year's theme, Farm and City — Partners in Economic Progress, With Pride in the Past and Faith in the Future, emphasizes the need for understanding between urban and rural neighbors.

The family farm is an economic resource for Pennsylvania, reports Governor Dick Thornburgh. Each year farmers add \$2 billion to the State's financial base.

But, each year these farmers are faced with rising costs of land, machinery, fertilizer and livestock.

Pennsylvania farmers average well over \$100,000 in

investments needed to operate their agri-business. This figure is double what it cost a farmer to operate ten years ago.

They are also challenged with the fact that each year there is a change over of between one and three million acres of farmland to other, usually irreversible, uses.

With Pennsylvania having one of the largest rural populations and some of the largest cities in the nation, Farm-City Week promises to be a step in the direction of mutual understanding.

Already the total occupational influence of farming is reflected in the growing agricultural programs in high schools and colleges in both urban and suburban areas.

And close ties between cities and farms can be

directly felt in the area of employment. There are nearly 10 persons whose jobs are related to supplying agriculture's needs or associated with farm products.

This dependency on the farm and agricultural field in the nation's economy has grown over the years and is expected to keep increasing. Leaders, seeing this close relationship and ever widening communications gap between the farm and city, have joined in an effort to inter-relate through an annual celebration.

Farm-City Week was started in Pennsylvania in 1955. It is sponsored by 50 organizations, cooperating with the national council. These organizations represent every facet of the economy, including government, business, industry and agriculture.

Individual counties throughout the State are conducting tours, sponsoring meetings, and holding workshops in an effort to better the partnership between farm and city.

Looking towards the future, Fred Bubb of the Soil Conservation Service commented, "Thus far the farmer has been able to offset the loss of land with higher crop yields per acre. However the rate of production increase has been leveling off."

He continued, "The only way to assure that this country and food importing nations will be fed in the future is to protect the best farmland now."

Bubb's statement appropriately sums up this year's Farm-City theme... pride in the past and faith in the future.

"Miniature dairy" farm on Farm-City tour

MANHEIM — Goat farming is just like dairy farming on a smaller scale, Jane and Jacob H. Fisher, Jr., Manheim, like to tell guests.

And they'll be hosting quite a few visitors this weekend as part of the Farm-City Week activities sponsored by the Lancaster County Farmers' Association.

There are about 100 dairy goats at Fishers Windy Hill Farm. At present between 40 and 45 are milking.

If the past is any indication there should be over 1000 people tramping through the Fishers' barn Saturday and Sunday, November 17 and 18 to see those goats.

The Fisher farm and six other Lancaster County operations will be open to guests from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

When the Fishers participated in the Farm-City program two years ago, 1700 people visited their farm and learned something about goats, something about farming.

Jake Fisher will be in the billy pen, someone will be in the barn, and Jane will be in the milkhouse to answer questions and keep both the goats and humans out of trouble.

The Fishers keep four breeds of goat on their farm: Alpine, Nubian, Saanen, and Toggenberg.

"We tend them just like cows only in a miniature way," Jane Fisher explained.

The goats are fed about four pounds of Pennfield's dairy ration each day. In addition they see some crimped oats and hay.

A good milking goat will give between four and five quarts per day.

"Our top producer made seven and a half quarts per day," Jane Fisher recalled. But, she added, the five quart goat is apt to be a more steady producer, without the peaks and valleys in her production.

The Fisher goats all are hand milked. While there is mechanical milking



Jane Fisher, Manheim, and one of her dairy goats look proudly at another morning's production. City folk will have a chance to tour the Fisher farm next weekend.

equipment available, the Fishers said they prefer hand milking because it has fewer clean-up problems and is more simple.

Milk is sold at the farm and through Pure Goat Products in Boyertown.

"The people who drop in to see us during the year are different from the people we'll see next weekend," Jane Fisher said.

Those who come around regularly are interested in goats, or at least are interested in goat products.

Their questions tend to be more oriented to goat

nutrition or use of dairy goat products.

The people who stop by on Farm-City weekend are interested in a more general way in farms. Most are town or city folks, Fisher said.

The goats at Windy Hill Farm are coming into breeding season. Fishers try to breed back their goats early to get a jump on production for next year.

The milkers should freshen anytime after the first of the year. There's about a five month lapse between breeding and freshening for the goats.

The Fishers said they are looking forward to the rush of visitors from the city.

They'll have two days of answering the same basic questions over and over, two days of telling the same facts to an ever-changing sea of faces.

"It's tiring, but it is a lot of fun," Jane Fisher said.

Not only is it fun for the farmer, but it's fun for the urbanites, too.

And it will remind people that milk as well as other farm produce doesn't really come from a grocery store.—CH

Prep Club discusses horse anatomy

FLEMINGTON, N.J. - The members of the Little Chaps and Hunting Caps 4-H Prep Club discussed the anatomy of the horse. All members had a turn to fill in a blackboard diagram. Mindy Connolly handed out paper and crayons. Each member drew a picture of a horse and listed the parts of a horse.

Norman Forlenza told us about his two ponies and members talked about different breeds and colors

The awards dinner was enjoyed by all. Members who were not present at the awards dinner received their awards at the meeting.

Plans were made for a "Sing-A-Long" Christmas

party for Mom's and 4-H's. The Christmas Party will be on December 14 from 7-9 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Carol Meola, Club Leader.

Reported by JoAnne Connolly, Club Leader.



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