

**Virginville  
Grange meets**

Richard Kieffer, legislative chairman of the Virginville Grange, asked members to write to their United States Representatives to support returning prayer and Bible reading to the schools.

It was announced that National Grange Cookbooks are for sale for \$6.00, and the junior members reported that they have napkins and cards for sale. The youth also presented the Grange with a softball trophy.

The Virginville Grange voted to go to the Folk Festival.

Members were reminded that it's dues time for 1980, at \$1.00 per member.

The theme for the meeting was "Ring in the New Year". Dorothy Miller read "If you have a Gift," and New Year's resolutions were read in Pennsylvania Dutch by Lillian Mengel and Arian Seidel. Kim Stump read the poem "Today," and Carline Blatt read "Twas the Night Before New Year."

The two meetings in February will be brothers and sisters night.

farmer stories don't give detailed financial information, you can bet the guy with 18 acres, who grew a quarter-of-a-million pansies last year, is doing as well as the West Virginia stockman with 200 beef cows and 300 ewes.

Pansies may not be a future crop for every Delmarva farmer, but they point out the possibility for other things to grow on a small acreage besides corn and soybeans.

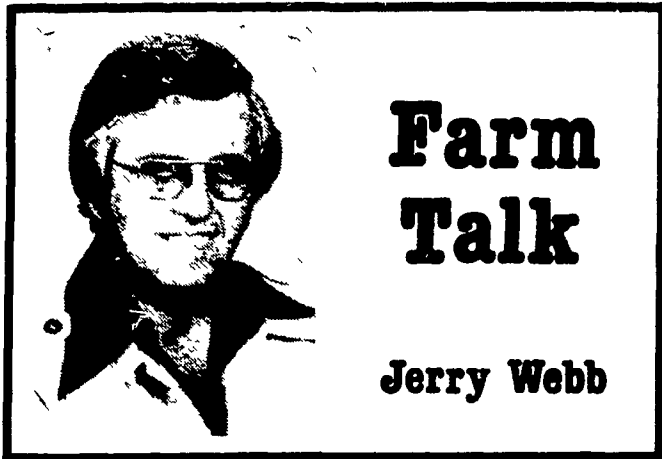
And if growing those two crops despite their ready local market means losing money, then it doesn't make much sense to grow them.

The next few weeks should be a time of decision making, a time to look hard at last year's numbers and project them into the troubled eighties to see if there are still some bucks to be made. Overpriced rented land might be the quickest way to get out of a no-win situation.

PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURE



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**Farm  
Talk**

**Jerry Webb**

1980 looks like a year of financial adversity and general uncertainty for Delmarva farmers.

Current political events have thrown the grain markets into a frenzy and at the same time the inflationary squeeze goes on.

Some farmers found 1979 a less-than-excellent year, and already they're looking at 1980 as a potential disaster.

Almost everything a farmer needs to make a crop is up in price. Fuel costs continue to climb with no end in sight.

The experts are predicting fertilizer as much as 20 percent higher than last year. Seed, pesticides, and almost everything else that's part of the production process is going to cost more.

And the income potential from corn and soybeans is uncertain, if not downright shaky.

We had record production in '79 and huge carryovers for a number of crops. Now the change in the export market makes it sound as though we're going to be back into the bin-busting surplus position of the early sixties.

One economic observer thinks our corn situation may be very close to the record surplus year of 1961. If that's the case, farm prices are going to be down regardless of what the Carter administration does.

So a farmer who found 1979 to be a difficult year may find 1980 to be almost impossible.

This could be a year to cut back, to give up overpriced rented acres, to postpone new equipment purchases regardless of their tax advantage and to spend carefully for fertilizer, chemicals, and other variable inputs.

A farmer who's using borrowed money to rent overpriced acres doesn't have much of a chance to start with. Add to that the staggering costs of

production and there may not be any profit left.

There really isn't much point in farming hundreds of rented acres if they're not going to return a profit. And the odds are pretty good that if the profit margin was narrow for '79, it will be nonexistent this year.

In fact, this could be the year of some sizable financial losses for grain farmers. If it is, the fellows with the most rented acres and the most borrowed money will be the worst hurt.

Farmers tend to measure their size of business in acres. They're too modest to talk gross earnings or profits, and so land oriented that they see acres farmed as the best measure of a man's farming business. And so many of them push themselves into impossible rental deals so they can become bigger farmers.

Maybe it's time for some of them to look at the records of others who till large acreages to see where the profits really are. The appearance of prosperity that goes along with a 1200-acre operation may be an illusion.

In fact, the guy with 3 or 4 hundred well-managed productive acres located close to home may wind up doing better, particularly this year.

There are many successful farmers who till small acreages--virtual garden plots when considered alongside some of the larger Delmarva farms. But that's not to say these operations aren't successful.

If you doubt that, consider the newest list of master farmers reported in the current issue of Pennsylvania Farmer magazine. These are the best, all-around farmers out of the hundreds of nominations received. And their holdings vary from a 2500-acre sheep and beef cow operation in West Virginia, to an 18-acre vegetable farm in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

And while those master

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**WHITE HORSE GRAIN CO., INC. INVITES  
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- ★ White Horse Grain's Floater Sprayer Equipment will be on display in the parking lot at the Red Rose Inn.
- ★ All meetings will be held at the Red Rose Inn in Jennersville, PA off of Rt. 796 and Rt 1 Bypass.

**CORN CLINIC  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1980  
10 a.m. to 12 noon**

Jack Beideman from Ciba-Geigy will be speaking on:  
"The New Weed Control For 1980"

Charles Marshall from Ag-Chem Inc. will be speaking on:  
"How To Get Better Standability for Corn"

**ALFALFA CLINIC  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1980  
10 a.m. to 12 noon**

Steve Fisher from FMC will be speaking on:  
"How To Get A Better Stand On New Seedings With Furadan"

Richard Wise from Beachley-Hardy Seed Co. (WL Alfalfa) will be speaking on:  
"The Right Seeds For Your Soils"

**JOHNSON GRASS CONTROL  
CLINIC  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1980  
10 a.m. to 12 noon**

Wayne Marz from Stauffer Chemical Co. will be speaking on:  
"Johnson Grass Control In Corn"

Guy Braxton from Monsanto will be speaking on:  
"Johnson Grass And Corn Control In Soybeans"

**SOYBEAN CLINIC  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1980  
10 a.m. to 12 noon**

Charles Marshall from Ag-Chem Inc. will be speaking on:  
"Weed Control and Better Job On Growing Soybeans"

Jack Beideman from Ciba-Geigy will be speaking on:  
"Dual For Better Weed Control"

Ray Layser from Asgrow will be speaking On:  
"The Soybeans For 1980"

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED IN ALL  
OF THE ABOVE MEETINGS

For reservations send coupon into White Horse Grain at R.D.2,  
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NUMBER ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_  
I am attending meetings on: (Check)  
Feb. 8 \_\_\_\_\_ Feb. 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
Feb. 15 \_\_\_\_\_ Feb. 22 \_\_\_\_\_