

Town meeting

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The Cumberland Co. Agriculture and Home Economics Assoc. recently elected officers for 1980. Robert Berkheimer, R2 Mechanicsburg, left, was elected president and Eugene Miller, 515 Garland Drive, Carlisle, was re-elected vice-president of the Board of Directors. Shown with the two officers is Rosemarie Peiffer, who will be representing the Cumberland Co. commissioners.

Agriculture Department and ag organizations were on hand to ask questions and make comments.

Labor problems held sway from the beginning.

Leon Wilkinson, Chester County, urged the Deputy Secretary to push for better interpretation of labor laws.

He pointed out the damage done to the state's mushroom industry by bureaucrats who don't know where their fields are and who make farming difficult for growers.

Alan Bair, of Atlantic Breeders Co-op, and John Brubaker, representing the State Meat Processors Association, brought up the

problem of workmens compensation.

Individual farmers and farm employers both are burdened with high payments for workmens' compensation and unemployment compensation.

Heim said the problem was liberalized benefits. "The only way to correct the problem is to correct the abuses," he said.

The two state senators, Richard Snyder and Clarence Manbeck, pointed out there is a package of eight bills in the Senate, but all are bottled up by labor sympathizers.

Snyder, who is on the Labor committee, said there are six hearings on the matter scheduled for March, April and May.

He said those who oppose the measures are likely to "hearing them to death."

But he added there is a parliamentary way to get the bill package moving as soon as they have the 26 necessary votes.

"The back door is the way to get it done," he said.

Donald Hershey, Manheim farmer, asked Heim why farmers can't get money for farm stills when the Department is making such a big ado over their potential for gasohol production.

Heim admitted banks regard such loans as risk capital. But he noted the government is going to help farmers obtain money and said he believed Farmers Home Administration may make funds available for this purpose.

Dr. Everett Denlinger, a

vet who formerly practiced in Paradise and who served as a regulatory vet for the Department of Agriculture, questioned whether the Department could handle an outbreak of contagious disease.

He noted a shortage of veterinarians in the Department.

"I think we could control it," Heim said. But he added the Department is concerned and needs additional help.

He did not look happy when he mentioned the Department budget and said salary scale for vets is a problem.

Heim said the Department is working to assure enough fuel for agriculture's support agencies, both suppliers and haulers.

But he admitted there is no firm plan. "We would hope the Energy Council can work it out," he said.

John Chapman, a Lancaster County farmer, asked why the youth and 4-H livestock display area at Farm Show was cut. He said he felt the worst place to cut was in the youth exhibits.

Heim said all livestock exhibit space was cut by 8 percent, commercial space by 10 percent.

"From an economic point of view the commercial cutback was worst," Heim said. "We lost \$30,000 from the commercial exhibitors."

In reply to a question from County Agent Max Smith

Heim said parking at Farm Show would be improved next year.

He said the parking security "did a lousy job."

He said they could have parked 20 percent more cars and because they did not the Farm Show lost \$600 a day.

When asked about the lack of funding for tile drainage from ASCS, Heim pointed out it was a federal program.

The question of utilities charging high rents for land under rights of way was raised.

"Keep the pressure on," Heim advised as a way to correct the problem.

Heim concluded the meeting by saying the Department hopes to run other town meetings in the future.

He called the program "an attempt to run a bureaucracy like a democracy."

Other meeting sites around the state included Erie, Warrendale, Carlisle, and Tunkhannock—perhaps the most firey of the sessions. There Heim found himself the target of questions on milk security from 125 farmers and State Representative Carmel Sirianni.

At that town meeting, Sirianni accused the Department of agreeing to sit down with co-ops and talk about milk security but never following through.



The Cumberland Co. Extension recognized past County Commissioner Raymond Sawyer, Jr. for his support at their annual meeting held recently at the South Middleton Fire Hall, Boiling Springs. Past president, Mark Naugle, right, and Marion Deppen, Regional Assistant Director, left, made the presentations. With Commissioner Sawyer is his wife, Gladys.

Harvest garden in three days


MEDIA — You can harvest a garden in just three days. An economical and nutritious garden of crunch sprouts in a glass jar on your own kitchen counter. Sprouted grains and beans have about three times the vitamin C and protein of an equal weight of iceberg lettuce. True, some stores sell sprouts fresh; but home-grown sprouts cost about one-tenth as much. You don't need soil or exotic seeds according to Greta C. Vairo, Extension Home Economist with The Penn State Extension Service. You could buy dollars worth of special contraptions, but it is all unnecessary because all you really need is a 1 or 2 quart jar, even a large empty peanut butter jar; a screen of wire or nylon net or cheesecloth; and a canning jar ring or a rubber band. And you can sprout lentils from your grocer's shelf. Peppery lentil sprouts replace celery and green peppers cheaply in all kinds of cookery.

You can shop at an oriental grocery for mung

beans. These have a milder taste that sometimes appeals to the beginning sprout eater. Mung bean sprouts are the kind you find canned in your grocer's Chinese food section. But once you try them fresh, you may never go back to the canned. As for smaller seeds, you may need to buy sprouting seeds from a health food store; regular packaged farm and garden seeds may be treated with fungicides that are difficult to wash off.

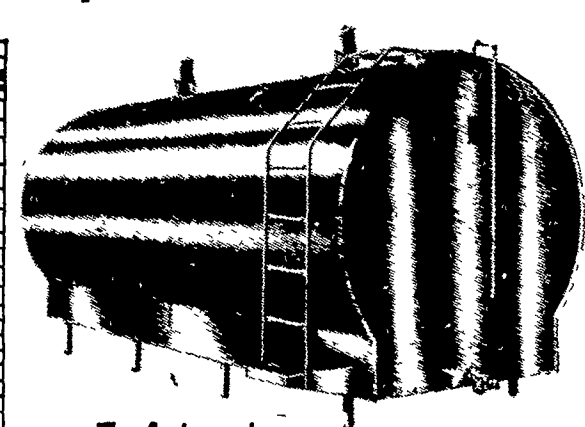
To sprout seeds, rinse one-fourth cup of the lentils or beans or rinse 1 tablespoon of the small seeds. Remove all broken and mashed seeds. Then soak the unbroken seeds overnight in the jar with some warm water to cover. Attach the screen with a rubber band or jar ring. Invert the jar; drain the seeds; and rinse and drain again.

Rinse and drain the sprouts two to four times daily until the sprouts are one-half to 1 inch long. For alfalfa sprouts, that's two to three days; for mung beans, three to four days.



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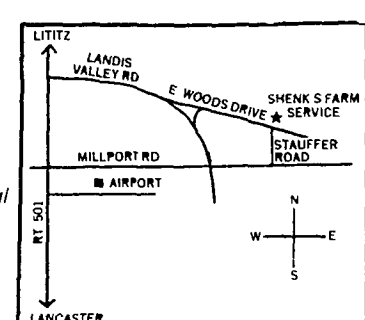



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