

# Farm and Home Foundation holds 16th annual meeting

BY SALLY BAIR  
Staff Correspondent

LANCASTER — Nearly 150 people attended the 16th annual meeting of the Farm and Home Foundation held at the Farm and Home Center Thursday. Christine Erb, Mount Joy, newly returned International 4-H Youth Exchange delegate, showed slides and spoke of her experiences while living

and working with Japanese farm families.

Chris told the audience about Japanese agriculture, which is on a much smaller scale than in the United States, and described some of the daily living experiences she encountered.

Seven directors were elected to serve three year terms on the board. Newly

elected directors include Elam Bollinger, Manheim

R7; Kenneth Groff, Strasburg R2, and Melvin G. Rohrer, Litz R3. Re-elected were: Vernon Leininger, Denver R3; Roy A. Brubaker, 700 Woodcrest Avenue, Litz; Mrs. James Z. Martin, New Holland R2 and Clarence Keener, Manheim R1.

Foundation Board President Jay E. Landis

gave special recognition to retiring directors Gary A. Dean, Strasburg; H. Raymond Stoner, Eden Road, Lancaster; and B. Snively Garber, Willow Street R2. Stoner served for nine years and Garber

participated as a member of the Board from the begin-

ning of its existence, for 15 years.

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent M. M. Smith, chairman of the foundation's scholarship committee, reported that the committee selected 17 students to receive the \$650 scholarship last year, from a total of 40 applicants.

Five scholarships were awarded in agriculture, five in home economics, and seven in nursing.

Smith noted that the amount given was raised this year, reflecting an increase in money available in the Esbenshade trust for

scholarship progress. While no publicity will be given the 1980 program until later in the Spring, Smith said potential recipients are already inquiring about the scholarships.

Vocal selections were provided by Jeannette Martin, New Holland R2, accompanied by her mother, Mrs. James Z. Martin.

Following her presentation, Chris answered questions and displayed artifacts she had brought with her from Japan. For her talk she was dressed in an hand-embroidered, silk wedding kimono.

## Maryland to launch bean beetle blitz

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Soybean growers in the northern five Eastern Shore counties of Maryland are being asked to take part in a massive effort to combat the destructive Mexican Bean Beetle on soybeans in 1980.

Entomologists of the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection Section say that if they can recruit 300 farmers who will be planting full season soybeans this year they can prove, once and for all, that Mexican bean beetle parasites can do the job of controlling the pest.

For several years, MDA and the Cooperative Extension Service have been working with farmers in using the parasites to curb bean beetle populations. Results have been mixed. In some cases good control has

been achieved, but in other cases the results have been disappointing.

According to MDA's supervisor of pest management activities, William F. Gimpel, Jr., "1980 is the year we go all out in this program. We have discovered from our past work that, to be successful, the Mexican bean beetle control program requires a large number of parasites released at the proper time over a wide area. We, therefore, are planning an intensive control campaign for this year.

"In cooperation with the Maryland Extension Service we now want to sign up participating farmers. The basic requirements for a farmer to participate are that he have full season soybeans in his crop plans

for 1980 and that he make available a plot one-quarter acre in size, for a 'nurse plot'.

"The nurse plot will be planted very early to snap beans and soybeans. The snap beans will attract early emerging adult Mexican bean beetles that are on the farm.

"Once the first population of beetles appears in the nurse plot we will introduce the parasites which are tiny wasps that lay eggs only in the Mexican bean beetle larvae. The parasite life cycle is completed in about two weeks resulting in a ten-fold population increase. There are six to eight cycles each season. The parasitic wasp is host specific and does not bother humans or other animals.

"Once a high parasite

population is achieved in the nurse plot, the parasites quickly spread to the soybean fields where the real action, and benefit to farmers, takes place. The role of the parasite is to prevent the Mexican bean beetle population from increasing to damaging levels.

"We definitely believe that with better monitoring, proper timing of parasite release, and higher density levels of parasites, this program can do the job.

"For this project we need 85 nurse plots in Dorchester County, 65 in Talbot, 63 in Queen Anne's, 56 in Caroline and 31 in Kent", Gimpel said.

Farmers who are interested in signing up, or who want more information on the program, are asked to contact their county agricultural agent as soon as possible.

## Solar collector can dry grain

An inexpensive, easily-installed solar collector, Solar Pak II, designed to heat homes or outbuildings, is rapidly gaining attention.

Mounted on a metal frame near or attached to a building, Solar Pak II is an 8 x 12-foot polyethylene, solar collector, resembling an air mattress.

A window-mounted air handling unit takes cool air from the building, heats it in the collector using the sun's energy, and returns the warmed air to the heated space.

The unit provides about 15,000 B.T.U.'s of heat. It will increase temperatures by about 50°. In other words, it will keep an un-insulated area at 40-50 degrees when outside temperature is at 0.

Larger units of 8 x 24 feet have been used successfully as heat sources for one method of drying grain. They have cut drying time by one-third, and have substantially reduced electrical energy costs.

Solar Pak II emerged from the ingenuity of Lance Crombie, a farmer and microbiologist Ph.D., of Webster, Minnesota.

Outraged by excessive propane gas costs to heat his 100 year-old farmhouse, Crombie designed and patented the mattress-like clear polyethylene collector and tested several units in the winter of 1977-78. Temperatures of up to 140° were recorded in the collector on a typical 25° winter day in the Minnesota area.

By the winter of 1978-79,

over 1,000 units were in use and other designs for industrial and commercial use were underway. In 1979, larger 8 x 24-foot units were discovered to have valuable application as alternative heat sources for grain drying.

Another reason for Chicago's Solar growth, has been the interest by consumers in taking advantage of the government's 30%

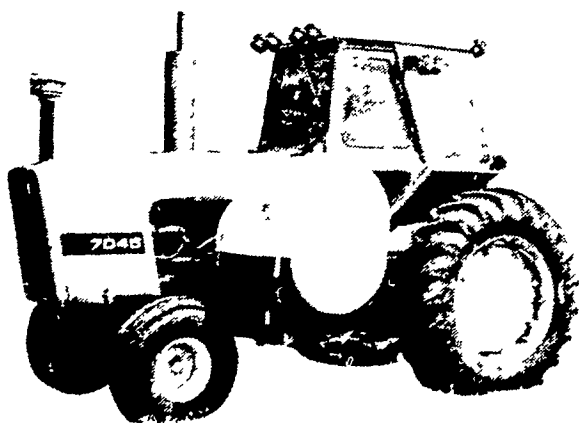
energy tax credit. Solar Pak II qualifies for federal and applicable state energy tax credit.

A bill pending before Congress would increase federal tax credit to 50% of home energy improvements, retroactive to July 1979.

For more information, contact Terry Crombie, Chicago Solar, 5217 North Harlem Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60656.

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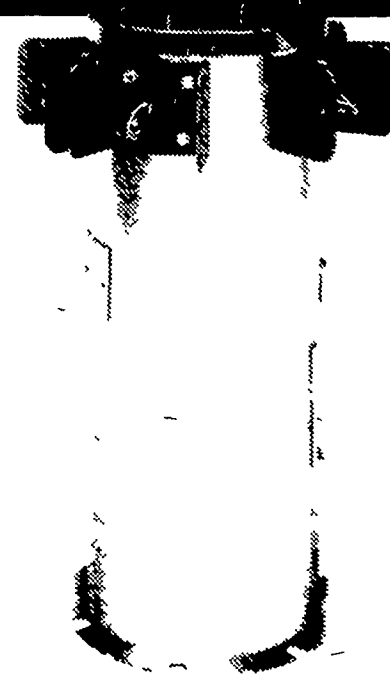
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