

*No choice but to reply*

# Census takers to seek farm, rural statistics

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Farmers and residents of rural America are being urged by the Census Bureau to be counted April 1 in the 20th Decennial Census of Population and Housing, and to urge their farm help to be counted too.

The results can affect farmers' pocketbooks and

their representation in State legislatures and Congress.

More than 100 federal programs now guide their spending of an estimated \$50 billion annually with census statistics. Funding for the extension service, for example, hinges upon a state's rural and farm population as determined by the census.

Local governments rely on

census statistics to guide them in numerous programs. These include locating schools, providing transportation facilities and public utilities for their residents, pinpointing housing conditions that must be remedied, and solving many other problems.

Census population data

are the basis for reapportioning seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. At the State level, changes in population affect the redistricting for the legislature and House of Representatives.

The census is expected to count approximately 222 million people and 86 million housing units. Data will be compiled for 3200 counties, and 20,000 incorporated villages, towns and cities, together with information on county subdivisions, census tracts, and 2.5 million city blocks.

Every household in the Nation will receive a census questionnaire in the mail on March 28. About 90 percent of the households will be asked to mail back their completed forms. The remaining 10 per cent, primarily in sparsely settled areas of the West, will be instructed to keep their forms until census takers pick them up.

Farm families having children in elementary or high school are receiving an early introduction to the census. Some 123,000 special school curriculum kits have been sent to more than 106,000 schools to help increase awareness of the census.

Each kit contains a "take-home" element so that students, by preparing lessons with parents or guardians, can share with them their knowledge of the census and its importance. One take-home lesson in each kit has been translated into Spanish.

One question always asked is this: Is it mandatory to answer the census questions. The answer is yes.

It has been required since 1790. Answering census questions has come to be viewed by most Americans as a civic duty, and most cooperative voluntarily, the Census Bureau reports.

Federal law guarantees the privacy of individuals census answers. Not even another government agency, including law enforcement and immigration authorities can see census answers.

## Speak up for families

UNIVERSITY PARK — You can be part of The White House Conference on Families. How? By participating in a local Family Forum.

Family Forums are an important segment of The Pennsylvania Forum on Families, the statewide project in preparation for The White House Conference on Families in Baltimore on June 5, 6, and 7.

Anyone can sponsor a Family Forum — an individual, a neighborhood group, an organization. A 12-page Guidebook, available at no charge from your county Cooperative Extension Service office, tells you how to organize, publicize and conduct the forum or meeting.

Recommendations from

scores of forums in churches, schools, community centers and neighborhoods across the Commonwealth will be an integral part of Pennsylvania's report to The White House Conference. Testimony from four regional hearings will also be included in the report.

Secretary of Public Welfare, Helen B. O'Bannon, state coordinator for The Pennsylvania Forum on Families, said a goal of both the national conference and of Pennsylvania's activities is to listen and involve families themselves.

Forums will give families the chance to talk about the difficulties they face and how they cope with problems, how government policies affect them and how

family members cope with inflation, the high cost of health care and other issues.

James E. Van Horn, Penn State Extension family sociologist, chairman of the statewide planning committee for The Pennsylvania Forum on Families, said forums will give families the chance to offer their ideas on how to change government and private sector practices for the better.

The four regional hearings are also open to the public. Hearing locations are: February 19, Sterling Hotel, Market and River Streets, Wilkes-Barre; February 21, 402 Keller Building, Penn State University, University Park; February 26, Creese Student Center, 32nd and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia; February 28, YWCA, Fourth Avenue and Wood Street, Pittsburgh. Information on the hearings is available from 204 Weaver Building, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802 (814) 863-2927, or from your local cooperative extension service.

## Unami 4-H holds covered dish

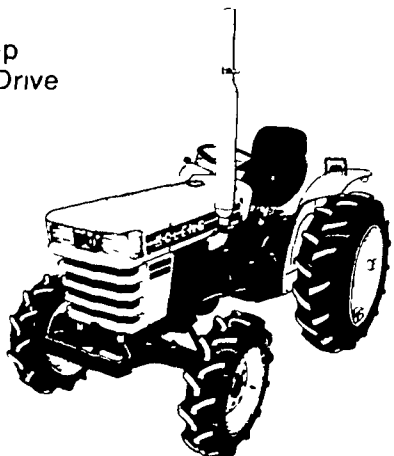
The Unami 4-H held a covered dish supper at the club's February meeting at the Bedmister Elementary School. In January, 45 club members and their families attended the Ice Follies.

In appreciation use of

Plumsteadville Grange, the club presented a play in November called "The Days of the Radio." October's Halloween Party was held at Matthew Anderson's barn on the 27th.

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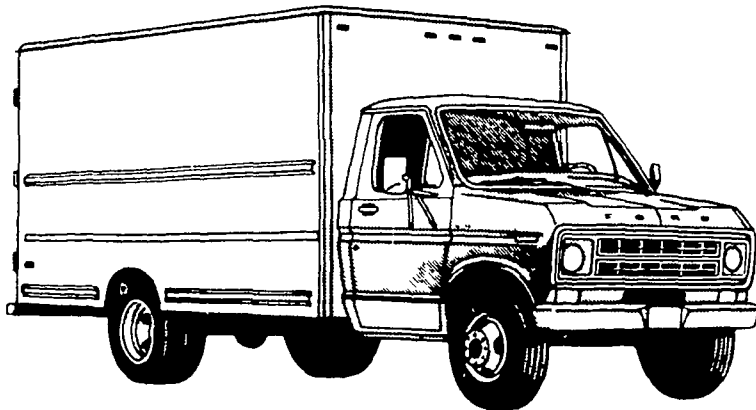
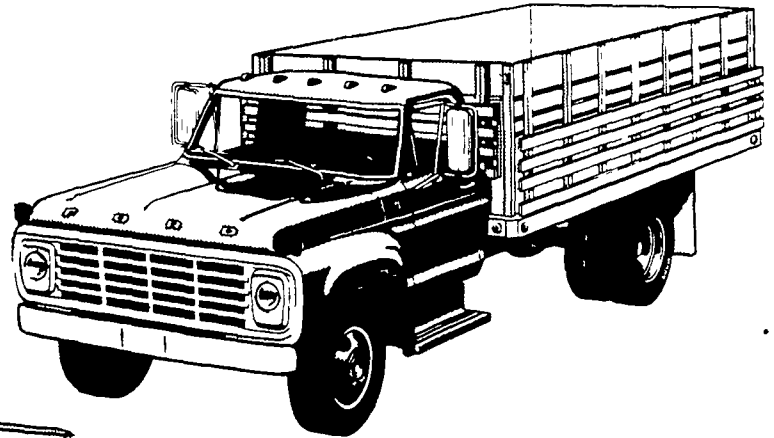
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