

Farmers, legislators meet, discuss pending issues

HARRISBURG — Farmers from Lancaster County and across Pennsylvania met with their legislators Tuesday in Harrisburg.

The all-day meeting, sponsored by Pennsylvania Farmers' Association, started with lobbying on Capitol Hill and ended with the traditional legislative banquet Tuesday evening in Camp Hill.

In his talk to legislators, PFA Vice President D. Eugene Gayman covered farmers' requests for exemption from the one percent capital stock tax on farm corporations, the need for energy priority for farm operations, milk security legislation, and asked legislators to enact laws to give farmers say in bargaining.

About 470 people were present at the banquet including an estimated 70 state representatives and senators.

PFA President Eugene Thompson told the legislators that some 400 northeast Pennsylvania farmers could lose at least \$32 million annually because of the current truck weight limit of 73,280 on Pennsylvania highways.

He noted only six states east of the Mississippi have

not raised their weight limitation to 80,000 pounds as favored by PFA.

Thompson called the lower weight limit "a major trade barrier" and said neglect by the lawmakers to raise the limit "surely will eliminate some of those dairymen from the farming business."

The Indiana County dairyman earlier in the day called on Governor Richard Thornburgh to seek a quick solution to the problems involved in the safe removal of krypton gas from containment at Three Mile Island.

"We are concerned that further delay could result in possible deterioration of the containment building and cause uncontrolled venting," Thompson said.

"The agricultural community in Pennsylvania could not withstand the economic loss that would follow uncontrolled venting," he added.

In his evening address at the banquet, Gayman pointed out that farmers are this nation's largest consumer. He told legislators that the average farmer has over \$250,000 invested in his operation.

"Preservation of the family farm is a vital concern," Gayman continued.



Lancaster Countians were among those hosting their state legislators. From left are Senator Ralph W. Hess, Spring Grove; Helen Wivell, Columbia;

Representative Kenneth E. Brandt, Bainbridge; Earl Newcomer, LFA President; and Representative June N. Honaman, Landisville.

"Almost everything has to do with farmers jumping economic hurdles."

He said the number one farm input is land and said PFA sees a need to protect the farmer's property rights.

In particular, Gayman called for legislation which would allow land taken through eminent domain to

be resold to the owner at the original price up to 10 years after condemnation.

Present law eliminates return of such land after three years and is blamed for getting government into land speculation.

The Franklin County dairyman said farmers need an exemption from the capital stock tax for closely held family farms.

He said the best way to assure a farm can be passed on to one's heirs is to incorporate it, but added that present corporate tax bills of

\$2500 to \$7500 a year make it prohibitive for farmers to take this route.

Gayman spoke of the need for sufficient fuel for tillage, (Turn to Page A22)

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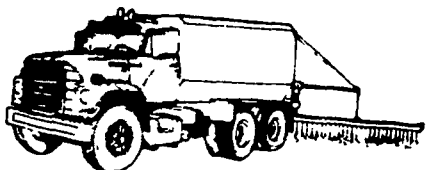


Northampton-Monroe County Farmers at the legislative dinner included, from left, Harold Fabian, Bethlehem; Bob Jones, Bath; Representative Russell Kowalshyn; Representative Edmund Sieminski; John Ackerman, Easton; and Roslyn Kahler, Nazareth. Also at the table were Ted Posey, Orangeville; and Ted Hack, Stillwater.

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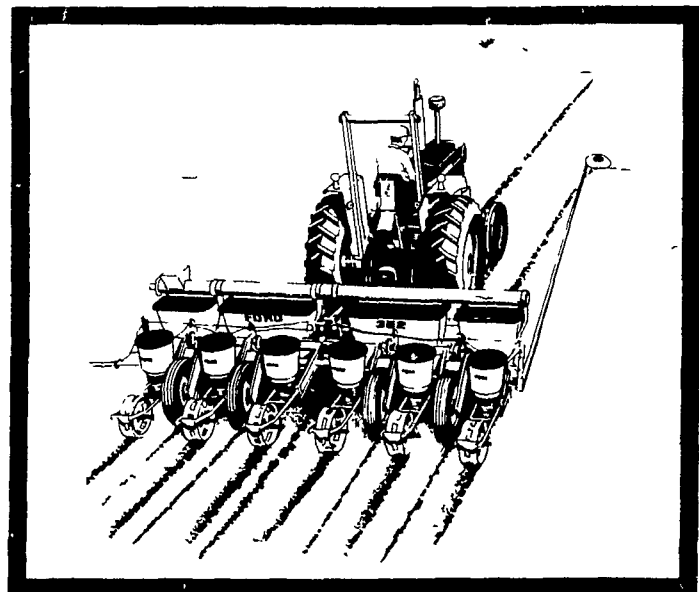
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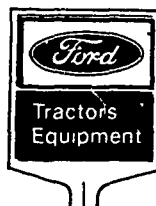
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