

## State dairy farmers set two records

LANCASTER — Pennsylvania dairy farmers set two new records in 1979. For the first time they produced over eight billion pounds of milk with a farm value exceeding one billion dollars.

Twenty years ago, milk production in the Commonwealth was short of total consumption by about 15 per cent. In 1979, production was 20 per cent over consumption.

The change to a surplus

has developed at a fairly uniform rate, says Blair J. Smith, associate professor of agricultural economics at Penn State.

"Pennsylvania consumers should be pleased with the developing surpluses," Smith stated, "since surplus milk has the effect of holding prices down through competition for sales. Also, surpluses avoid some of the higher costs of moving milk from more distant areas."

He indicated Pennsylvania ranks fifth among all states

in milk production. The Commonwealth has been among the top five milk producing states for many years. Dairying is first among all agricultural enterprises in the state, Dr. Smith noted, with dairy farms accounting for about 50 per cent of the total value of sales by all farmers in the Commonwealth.

He said two factors account for the change from deficit to surplus milk production. First, milk production in Pennsylvania

increased by 22 to 23 per cent from 1959 to 1979. Second, consumption of milk in all uses declined by 18 to 19 per cent per person in the same years.

The position of Pennsylvania in milk-sufficient in contrary to that of the Northeast generally, it was pointed out. Deficits of 15 to 20 per cent have been estimated for Ohio and West Virginia — and the 11 additional states north and east of these two.

For the United States as a whole, production and consumption are in close balance every year because both exports and imports of dairy products are small and tend to largely offset one another.

Smith and other economists are not certain why the upward trend in milk self-sufficiency is so marked in Pennsylvania. What will happen in the future is even less sure. Pennsylvania dairymen have always had the advantage of closeness to large consuming populations.

Increased costs of transportation, relative to other cost, have made nearness to markets increasingly important.

## Adams County Farmers slate July pig roast

ARENDSVILLE — The Adams County Farmers' Association Summer Picnic will be held in the form of a pig roast, July 21, at 7 PM at the South Mountain Fair Grounds, west of Arendtsville. All 780 county members are invited as well as other PFA members.

Members are told it is important they get reservations to the Secretary, Mrs. Beverly Benner, R1, Box 393 R, Fairfield, Pa 17320 along with \$1 per family member, on or before July 4. The Association will be furnishing the meat, rolls, beverage and dessert. All families are asked to bring a covered dish and table service for their family.

Adams County Farmers' Association President, Guy

Donaldson will be giving us some news about his recent trip to Taiwan and there will be fun and games for every one.

Women of the County Association should get their reservations for Region II Ladies Day out to Women's Chairman, Mrs. Guy Donaldson, R3 Gettysburg immediately. The outing will be held at Crossgates Inn between Carlisle and Camp Hill July 10 from 9 am to 4 pm. There will be an af-

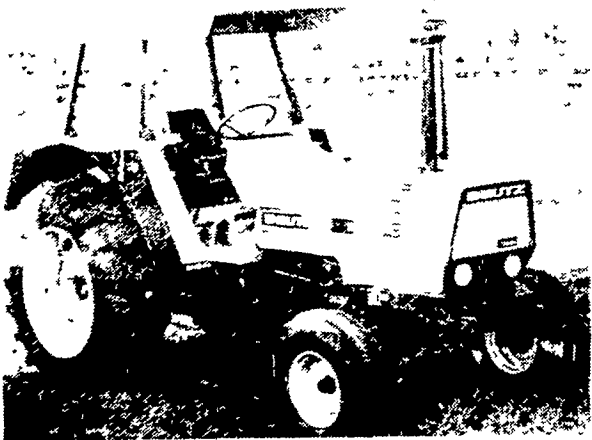
ternoon bus tour to the Pennsylvania Farm Museum.

Policy development time is coming up and Vice President C William Slagle is requesting that all ACFA members send their policies to him at R 5, Box 292, Gettysburg 17325.

The County's Annual meeting will be held October 6 when all policies will be finalized and voted upon.



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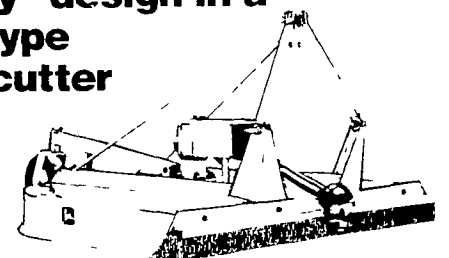
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