

## County Visitors

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try to keep the important things in mind and use them when we return. Your farmers have a higher education than our farmers. That is the secret of development."

Their three-week stay is filled with visits to local agribusinesses, the Penn State Research Center, fairs, shows and extensive contact with the local cooperative extension service. Manuel says, "We like to get to talk to a lot of people and exchange ideas. We need to learn and to speak with people to learn more about the world."

The most impressive programs Manuel has seen are the 4-H and FFA programs in this county. He said, "It is difficult to change the thinking of the old. It is very interesting to teach younger children. We must give a lot of attention to working with youth. It is very, very important."

Manuel explains a basic problem in his island homeland in that there are three times more people from the Azores living in the United States than living there. He says, "They are looking for a better way of

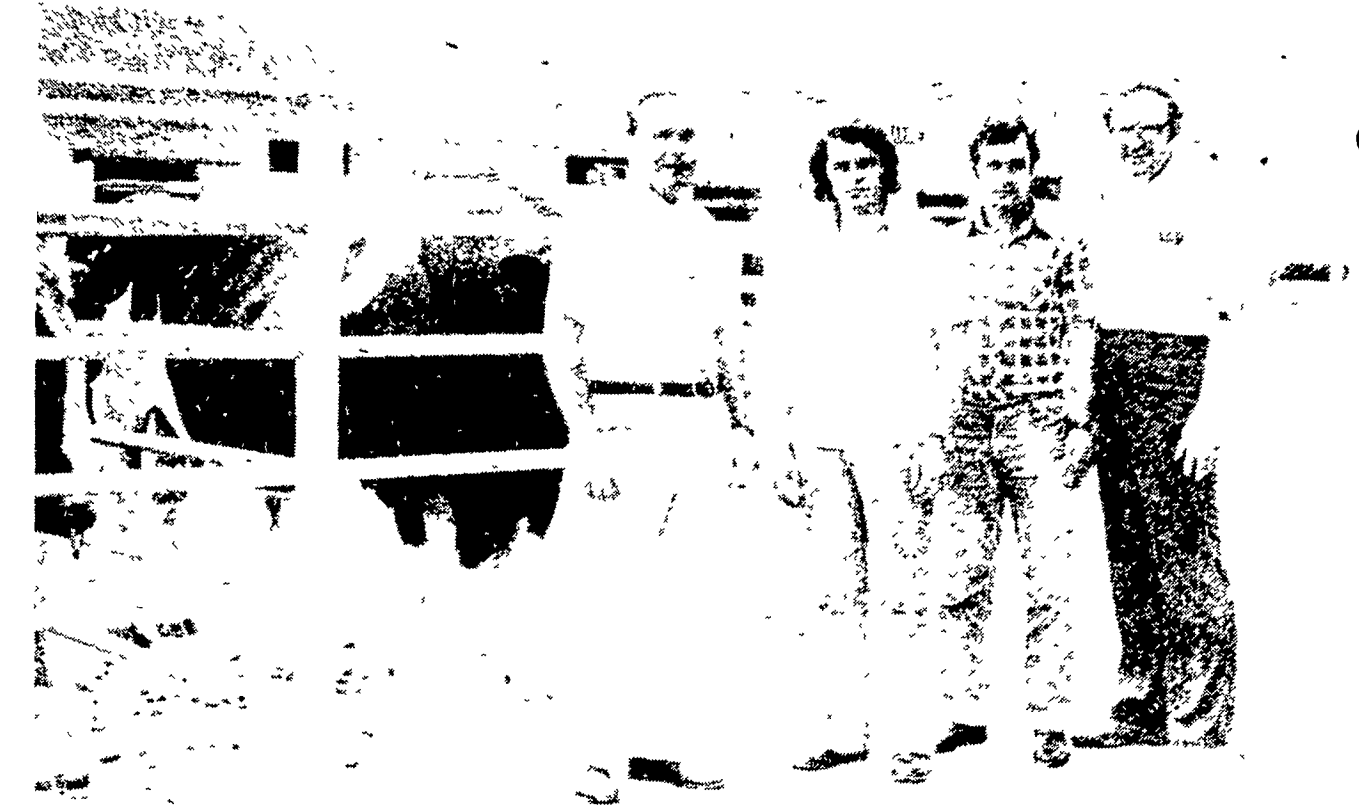
life. The better people come here, and we have old people and very young."

His native islands are on a latitude with New York, but he says, "It is not so warm in the summer nor so cold in the winter."

He added, "We see a lot of similar things about Lancaster County and the Azores. Many crops are the same, with farmers growing alfalfa and corn." He said there have been widespread experiments with soybeans, which grow well there. Presently individual farms do not grow soybeans but he said, "They could be important to us."

"In Lancaster County you say your farms are little, but ours are more little," Manuel says. After consultation in Portuguese with Mario, they agree that an average farm might be 35-40 acres of land with five or six cows. But they were careful to point out that there are also very large farms and some very small farms. Agricultural acreage is larger on some of the islands than others.

Dairy animals on the Islands are primarily Holsteins or Friesian-



Visitors from the Azore Islands, off the coast of Portugal, check out the bulls on a visit to the Atlantic Breeders Cooperative in Lancaster. From left, Atlantic representative Edwin Sauder, Mario

Sousa, Manuel Valadao and David Ishler, vocational agriculture teacher at Garden Spot High School.

Holsteins, according to Manuel. Some herds may have 10-12 cows, with herds averaging about 6,000 pounds of milk. Manuel said most of the milk is used in manufactured products, including dried milk, butter and cheese.

There are no barns in the Azores, with cattle being milked outside, often by hand. He noted, however,

that some farmers have portable milking machines which they take out to the pasture for milking.

On a visit to Atlantic Breeders Cooperative, the two men expressed great interest in the area. (Turn to Page D36)

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