

Young Farmer attends AAW convention

BY JOYCE BUPP
Staff Correspondent

HERSHEY — Chester County farm wife Joyce Hershey was one of four agriculture spokesmen participating in a simulated television talk show, held last Thursday in the wrap-up session of American Agri-Women's annual meeting at the convention center.

Moderator for the media formal was nationally-known ag spokeswoman Laura Heuser, a Michigan apple grower and one of the founders of AAW. Firing questions designed to put the panelists "on the spot" on agriculture issues, Laura quizzed the women on such controversial issues as land use, erosion and tillage practices, migrant labor regulations and support prices.

Following the "interview"

with each panelist, their responses were critiques by Ann Herr of Lancaster's WGAL-TV and Ann Kaiser, editor of FARM WIFE NEWS.

Other panelists were Julia Hinthner, president of Oklahoma Women for Agriculture; Jewel Home, president of Women of National Agriculture Aviation Association; and Jean Ibendahl, president of Illinois Women for Agriculture.

In February, Joyce Hershey was chosen the Pennsylvania Young Farmer spokesman, during competition held at the Young Farmer state meeting in Gettysburg. She represented the Octorara chapter of the Young Farmers, and was the only woman in the four-contestant runoff.

On December 6, Joyce will take part in the national spokesman finals, scheduled during the National Young Farmer Educational Institute being held in Omaha, Nebraska. Elanco Products is sponsoring the public relations competition, with 22 contestants entered from across the nation.

Spokesmen will first present a five-minute speech and then be questioned for ten minutes on a variety of agriculture issues. All the contestants will take part in public relations promotional events during the Omaha convention and three top winners will be sent on a media blitz through Cleveland, Chicago and Houston.

Joyce and her husband Art have been dairying for 21 years, the last fifteen on their Cochranon R1 home farm. They have 100 head of registered Holsteins, with about 60 in the milking string, and crop 400 acres in hay, corn, and pastureland. Also in the pork production business, the Hersheys' fatten between 1500 to 1800 hogs annually.

Oldest son, Dwayne, is 19 and helps to run the farming operation. Brad is 17 and a senior at Octorara High School, where he's active in the wrestling and cross country teams. Ten year old Julie is a 4-H'er with a day heifer and helps on the farm with the calf feeding chores. Bev is the oldest, married to



Critiques to the answers of farm women on controversial ag issue questions were offered by WGAL-TV's Ann Herr, left, and Ann Kaiser of Farm Wife News.

Barry Goodling, and attending Messiah College at Grantham studying home economics.

"I prefer to be called a 'farm wife,'" emphasizes Joyce, "and I personally don't want to compete for the title of 'farmer.'" The job of farm wife should be recognized as a vocation, a vitally needed part of the farm contributing to the well-being of the farm family.

Joyce is head bookkeeper for the farming operation, and labels herself "at the bottom of the totempole" when it comes to being tapped for help on farm chores. Since being selected the state's Young Farmer spokesman, Joyce has spoken to both Penn's Agri-Women and the Chester County Farmers Association's ladies' day out. A past chairman and

current member of the county farmers' association's women's committee, Joyce is also active in community affairs. She serves on the West Fallowfield Township recreation commission, a group working toward establishing recreation facilities through an old school facility they've purchased. She's an adult

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Farm City Week

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at the Plaza Mall on Saturday.

Starting Monday, the farm and industry tours allowed senior citizens and about 130 farmers and industry people to take a look at the other side's way of life.

Farmers toured the Bethlehem Steel Corporation's Lebanon plant and Butler Manufacturing, Annville. And industry toured several of the county's top-notch farms.

A job exchange created the banquet's entertainment as three farmers and three city businessmen shared their eye-opening and sometimes humorous experiences.

One of the exchanges found dairy farmer Donald Bollinger filling in as president of Lebanon Valley National Bank for a day.

Said Bollinger, "The question I got most was 'Did I get any free samples?'. Sure, I got two pens, two bottle caps, and two balloons."

Bollinger told the attentive crowd how he followed the path a check travels from the time it is handed to a bank teller until it leaves the bank. He said he was amazed at a machine called the reader-sorter, designed

to scan checks and sort them according to number codes found on each check.

"The amazing thing is that this machine can read 1600 documents a minute," he exclaimed.

"I also learned why interest rates at banks are so high. You see, inflation increases the dollar assets of property, but a bank's assets are, for the most part, strictly dollar bills.

"Unfortunately, inflation decreases the value of the dollar every day. So banks have to increase their interest rates to offset their losses due to inflation," Bollinger explained.

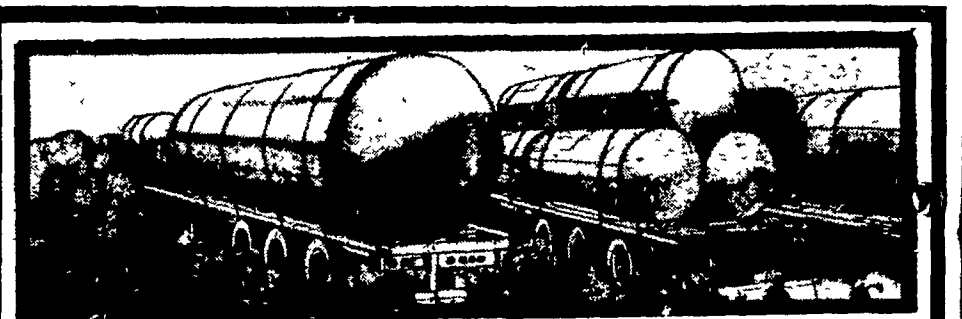
"Now, when I write a check to cover my farm loan payments — it's still painful — but I know why it hurts."

Other job swap experience stories begin on page A-20.

Commending Lebanon County on their successful Farm City Week was C. Eugene Wingert, Region 6 Director of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Dave Wauls, executive director of the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce summed up the event saying, "We will continue to work with the business and farming community to make it better through efforts like our first Farm City Week."

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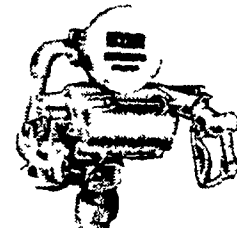
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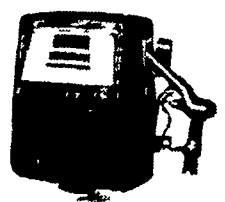
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