

Farm Women Societies to hold convention

HARRISBURG — Farm Women Societies of Pennsylvania will meet again for their annual convention Monday at the Forum of the Education Building in Harrisburg. Delegates from 18 counties and 190 societies will represent the 4112 Pennsylvania farm women society members.

According to Helen Hess, state farm women society president from Lancaster

County, "We are expecting between 500 and 600 people. It should be a very good convention, especially with the speakers we have lined up. We're all looking forward to it."

The convention will kick off with a welcome from Hess and Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell.

Following a presentation of state officers, State Dairy

Princess Cindy Neely will be on hand to deliver the presentation which helped her win her title at the state dairy contest.

Next will be a small awards presentation for safety to various deserving members and a distribution of lockets to all farm women who have reached age 90.

The remainder of the morning and afternoon is scheduled for business meetings and guest speakers to be announced at the convention.

Monday night the farm women will move to the Penn Harris Motor Inn for their traditional banquet.

Dr. Calvin Wenger, Lancaster County, will be delivering the message, "From Where I Stand."

Marie Baughman, farm women's first vice president will act as mistress of ceremonies for the evening.

Tuesday and the final day for the convention the meeting will move to the

Lancaster County. The business scheduled for the day will include election of two directors and a state secretary.

Highlight of the two-day convention will be a display and judging of the state projects. This year the areas are arts and crafts by grandchildren of the members and crocheted items by members themselves. Both areas were then divided into three categories.

In October outside judges picked the state project winners for each county. For the youth project, in Lancaster County, each society was allowed to present one project to the county board meeting and the executive board then picked winners.

The state projects, crocheted items, will then be judged and one winner picked from each category.

The farm women societies, founded 66 years ago, have grown and changed a great

deal through the years and according to most members, even the convention is different from year to year. But the founding goal - to foster love for the farm and rural life of that day by teaching the dignity of farming, the science of working the soil and the raising of fine animals - has remained the same.

What has changed, however, is their mem-

bership. From an initial twelve to a surprising 4112 members is quite a stride for these women. Lancaster County boasts 1065 of this total, leaving the other 3107 divided among 17 counties.

The farm women motto "for happiness" will be quoted, strengthened and developed at the convention by all members this week just as it has been these past 66 years.

Farmers to get yearly tax guide

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — The Farmer's Tax Guide, an annual publication of the Internal Revenue Service is being mailed out to farmers. Dairymen and poultrymen, livestock and grain producers, vegetable and fruit growers, and nurserymen will be provided copies of a booklet which explains how federal tax laws apply to farming.

The guide gives examples of typical farming situations, discusses the kinds of income to be reported, and describes the deductions that are allowed.

Sample forms and schedules are provided, as well as, examples of how to fill them out.

A key page for most, whether they make out their own returns or not, is one that lists the significant dates, when certain forms have to be filed and payments made.

Each year IRS updates this publication with the help of the Extension Service of the USDA and of the State Land Grant Colleges.

This year a number of chapters have been revised to make the discussion of tax law more understandable. And, we're told, a number of suggestions sent in by readers have been adopted.

Ideas, comments and recommendations for future editions are sought by IRS. They should be addressed to 1111 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20224.

Some of the more important changes to the tax law that might affect a farmer's tax are noted: investment credit, a minor change; energy investment credit, business and residential, providing some

tax credits; barter income, requiring market value of the property or service involved; mileage rate increase to 20 cents per mile; alcohol fuel credit; increases in self-employment tax and social security withholding tax rate.

Tax filing time reminds us each year of the importance of good business records. It gets down to the matter of selecting a good system, and then following through by using it as routine.

Many systems are available to farmers these days. The Farmer's Tax Guide describes and shows examples of a good accounting system. The Rutgers Farm Accounts system is an excellent one. The book is easy to use and cost is modest - \$1.00.

There are a number of computerized accounting systems particularly designed for farmers.

These, and other similar programs, provide the farmer not only with accounts necessary for IRS reports, but a great management tool.

They issue periodic reports during the year that help a farmer in making his business decisions. The potential value of these programs is extraordinary and improving year by year.

Don't overlook the professional accountant who knows the farming business. He or she can provide a personal touch that indeed has merit.

If you are dissatisfied with your farm accounting program, now's the time to consider the options. The choices have never been better.

Farmers Union to hold annual convention

GRANTVILLE — The ninth annual Pennsylvania Farmers Union state convention is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, January 19 and 20.

The convention will be held at the Grantville Holiday Inn, located off Exit 28 of Interstate 81. The Holiday Inn is the former Treadway.

Among the keynote speakers at the meeting is National Farmers Union President George Stone.

Also on the agenda is Victor K. Ray, vice president of the National Farmers Union.

The annual banquet will be held Monday evening from 6:30 to 8.

During the convention,

delegates from across the state will vote on Farmers Union policy for the coming year.

Among the expected topics will be resolutions concerning the proposed Pennsylvania milk promotion checkoff, the new farm bill to be formulated this Spring in Washington, and a reaffirmation of the group's support of 100 percent of parity for all farm goods produced.

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