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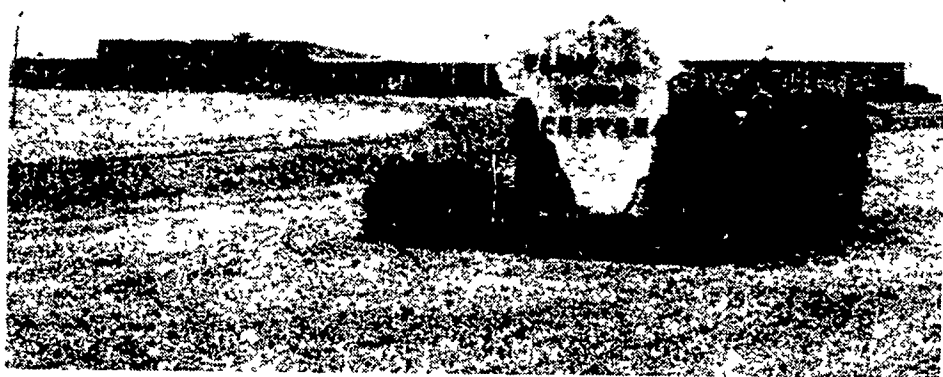
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Lancaster Farming

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The Lancaster Farm and Home Center is a popular gathering site for many agricultural groups, meetings and activities.

Farm & Home Center to burn its mortgage

BY SALLY BAIR

Staff Correspondent

LANCASTER — Attending meetings at the Farm and Home Center is a fact of life for anyone involved in Lancaster's agricultural community. But the reality of having a centralized location for agricultural and home economics is only 12 years old.

The mortgage-burning to be held Thursday at the Farm and Home Center at 6:30 p.m. represents how the culmination of long hours of dedicated work by many agricultural leaders which began nearly two decades ago. The result is a modern office facility and meeting space which was the first of its kind, and a Farm and Home Foundation which administers extensive

scholarships and other educational programs in addition to managing the building.

The Farm and Home Center was a dream in the minds of some agricultural leaders as early as 1953, and minutes of a Senior Extension meeting in 1954 established the need for office and meeting facilities and recommended the establishment of an organization which could help carry out this goal.

But the dream did not become a reality until the plan received impetus from the gift of 10 acres of land from Elmer Esbenschade in 1960. At that point, it seemed possible to move ahead with the project, but even then it took years before the dream

of a separate building materialized.

Wilis Esbenschade was the first president of the Board of Directors of the Farm and Home Foundation and at the time he was also serving as president of the Farm Bureau and the Extension Board.

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What's the beef about Farm Show's Jr. steers?

BY SHEILA MILLER

FARM SHOW — What's wrong with the grand champion Farm Show steer, and who's been saying the champ doesn't measure up anymore?

Anyone wandering through the beef barn at Farm Show might have found 4-H exhibitors, leaders, parents and other cattlemen voicing their opinions about a recent article published in Pennsylvania Farmer magazine concerning the quality of the crossbred steers tagged grand champ at the past several Farm Shows.

The story, authored by Kendace Allen, covered the opinions of buyers of the champion baby beef and the feelings of professional cattlemen on why these steers, in recent years, did not measure up quality-wise. Packers, like Danny George, of Bethlehem, claimed the steers the judges have been selecting as grand champion at Farm Show just didn't finish out choice — a quality standard for the amount of marbling in the meat.

The story created quite a hum among the cattlemen at Farm Show, and the topic was brought up at various breed meetings and the Pa Cattlemen's session.

The controversy stems from the fact that farm Show rules limit the weights on 4-H steers to 1350 pounds maximum. With the recent trend to crossbreed steers

from exotic bloodlines, this upper limit doesn't allow some crosses to finish out to the desired choice grade, the cattlemen claimed.

Selecting the grand champion steer is a matter of the judge's preference, some said, with most judges now-a-days basing their decision on conformation, with a .3 to .4 backfat.

Although the previous Farm Show grand champion steer buyers stressed the quality grade as their reason for no longer wanting the champion in the magazine article, cattlemen at the Farm Show said they felt most packers in the beef industry are looking for

leaner beef now than in years before.

Penn State's Lowell Wilson, secretary of the Pa. Cattlemen's Association stated, "There's not much difference between good and choice grades when it comes to eating quality."

Another Penn State beef specialist, Lester Burdette, claimed the Farm Show steers are fed wrong, with 4-H's trying to hold their animals from Roundup to Farm Show.

"Some of these project steers are picked too heavy when they're bought," Burdette said. "I won't concede that the 1350 pound limit is too light, though a steer's ideal weight ranges

from 1050 to 1200 pounds, maybe 1250 pounds."

At the exhibitors banquet of the Polled Hereford Association, Tony Dobrosky, York County Extension Agent informed the members there is "pressure to remove the top weights of lambs, hogs, and steers." He noted there will be a meeting with the Farm Show Commission on March 5, 1981 to discuss the situation and present resolutions.

Dobrosky challenged the group to consider what removing the upper weight limitation will do for the youth program and the beef industry.

"It is serious — it's not the

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Inter-State local honors 50-year members

BY SUSAN KAUFFMAN

Staff Correspondent

QUARRYVILLE —

Christiana and Quarryville locals of District 12 of Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative gathered at the Quarryville United Methodist Church Thursday to honor several of its members for 25 and 50 year memberships.

Catching up on handing out awards which were technically earned in the seventies, District Director Curt Akers announced four 50 year membership recipients. Joel Dubble accepted the award due 1973. Lewis and Lois Aument and Ervin and David DeLong talked fifty years in 1974. Clayton Kreider, his son, James, and grandson, Thomas, accepted the honors earned in 1977.

Akers also introduced two 25 year award recipients to the 157 members and guests attending the noon luncheon

meeting Calvin Keen and Albert Mellinger received plaques, pins and certificates commemorating two and one-half decades in the cooperative.

Prior to announcing the membership awards, Akers presented checks to five area youths who completed the highest scoring record books in 4-H last year. Diane Hershberger, Doug Hershberger, Steve Hershey, Lela Rohrer and Lonna Rohrer had the top three scores with a three-way tie in third place bringing the number to five winners.

During his comments outlining the status of the cooperative at present, Akers noted the economic pressures affecting the industry including production exceeding the demand, increased costs in production and increases in prices paid for milk less than in-

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Farmers Union votes on charter, referendum

BY CURT HARLER

GRANTVILLE — The Pennsylvania Farmers Union ninth annual convention concluded here Tuesday with adoption of many farm resolutions, presentation of several speeches, and the group's taking one more step towards a national charter.

PFU now has over 5000 members statewide and is eligible for a charter from National Farmers Union.

Delegates amended a proposed set of bylaws and resubmitted them to county chapters for approval during the coming year. If the local members accept the bylaws and all organizational guidelines are met, PFU could be fully chartered at its next annual meeting.

In the meantime, PFU delegates kept track of current affairs in state agriculture by passing several resolutions.

Reacting to the proposed dairy checkoff program for the state, they said they

would oppose any mandatory commodity promotion program unless the promotion order complies with PFU policy.

Delegates then approved a lengthy report from the commodity committee establishing checkoff standards.

PFU wants approval by two-thirds of the producers in any commodity referendum, all promotion funds to be controlled

directly by a board of producers, review of the referendum at government expense every three years or any time 10 percent of the producers request a review, and criminal penalties for any political or lobbying use of the money.

While the policy was written to be general and cover both federal and state checkoffs, the PFU stan-

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FEMA group supports Mann for Farm Show director

HARRISBURG — One statewide agricultural organization went on record this week in support of Horace L. Mann as permanent Farm Show director.

A letter of support for Mann, who served as acting director of the recently concluded show, was mailed this week to Penrose Hollowell, secretary of agriculture, by the Pennsylvania Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association.

In the letter dated January 21, James F. Watrus, secretary-treasurer of the manufacturers' group, cited the positive attitude and past experience of Mann concerning the show.

Expressing support for the naming of Mann as permanent director, the letter stated that members of the Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association, who are major exhibitors at the show, were favorably impressed with Mann's work

during the past week's show.

Mann previously served as Farm Show director from 1964 to 1972. He was named acting director a few weeks before the 1981 show upon the resignation of Hugh Coffman.

E. Chester Heim, deputy ag secretary, reports that no definite schedule has been set for the naming of a permanent director.

"We'll be taking a look at all possible candidates with no definite date in mind," he said.