

PFU

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dards in several respects do not match the current milk referendum proposal.

During the two day meeting, PFU also asked support for young farmers starting in business, resolved to establish an egg and poultry committee, and proposed inspection of fresh mushrooms by the Agriculture Department at the retail level.

They resolved the Game Commission pay taxes equal to taxes landowners pay on uncultivated land. They also asked a reduction in property taxes and increase in per capita income tax be instituted.

They supported a Lehigh County resolution to require pseudorabies checking on all breeding hogs sold, but blew away a resolution asking for evidence of calfhood vaccination for Bangs disease on all dairy cattle brought into the state.

Delegates supported a Lancaster County proposal for voluntary ag districts, with Act 442 Amendments, as a means of preserving farmland.

They opposed dumping of hazardous waste materials anywhere in any county.

Members approved several strong, pro-farmer

measures on gas wells and coal mining which were proposed by delegates from Western Pennsylvania.

They asked for better erosion and sedimentation controls, and demanded enforcement be focused on municipalities.

They said ASCS funds should be tax-free and said FmHA county board members should be elected.

They took stands on several marketing issues, asking all mushroom buyers be bonded, and that livestock auctions be required to publish the true figures for sales, quoting both high and low prices.

At the annual banquet State Administrative Director Leonard E. Zemaitis told the 120 delegates—the largest number ever—the future holds serious questions, including whether people will continue to farm in Pennsylvania.

"Will it be possible or profitable to farm in our state?" he asked.

He said the solution was to give up self-interest and fight for the general interests of all farmers. He said members should try to build a strong political alliance with other farmers and farm groups to assure success.

"We are going from a period of handling surplus

problems to a time of shortages," Zemaitis said.

He noted the price of seed corn has gone up faster than any other agricultural input. Meanwhile big corporations are absorbing the remaining small seed companies, he said, warning that farmers may become dependent on big conglomerates for seed the way we now depend on OPEC for oil.

"We still are waiting for

clear signals from Washington, but we are not getting them," he concluded.

Following Zemaitis's address, National Farmers Union President George W. Stone continued on the same theme.

Farmers must do a better job of monitoring Congress and the White House and making their concerns known to decision-makers, Stone said.

He told the group there are 74 new members of the U.S. House, including nine committee chairmen; plus 18 new senators with a completely new roster of Senate chairmen.

"What this means is decisions affecting farmers will be made by new people, many of whom have no background in agriculture," he noted. "This is why we feel it must be a top priority

to try to educate every one of these new decision-makers on farm issues."

The meeting's keynote speaker was Victor Ray, current Vice President of NFU.

Ray, too, spoke of the need to strengthen farm organizations if farmers are to achieve economic justice.

"The democratic process is absolutely dependent on

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Lancaster County Farmers Union had five delegates to the Farmers Union Convention held this week in Grantville. From right the members are: Naomi and Robert Spahr, Lititz; Daniel Groff,

Brickerville; County President Forney Longenecker, Lititz; and Bus Shoemaker, Quarryville.

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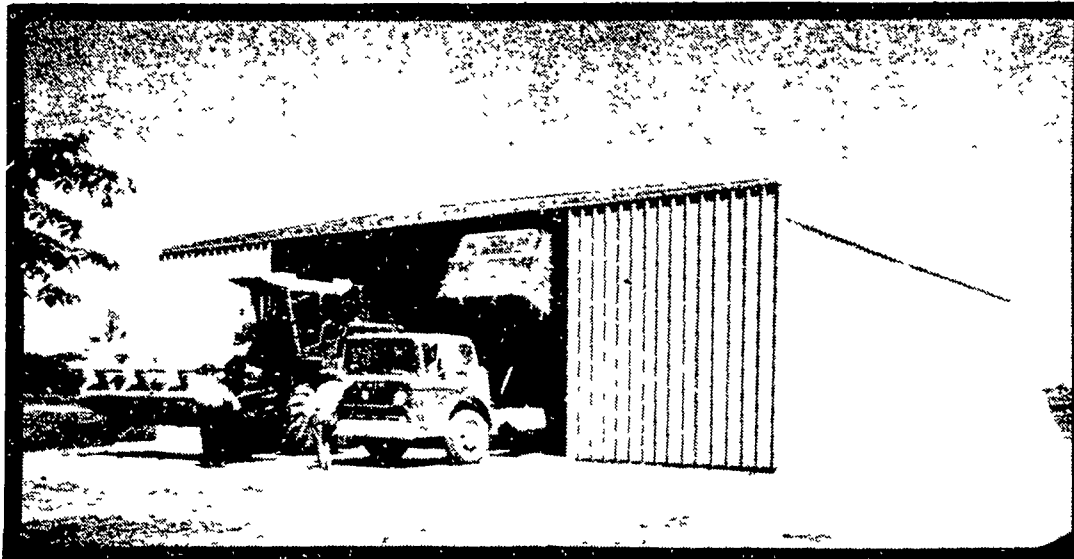
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