

Economics hold spotlight in state capital

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Milk Security Fund is not building up as rapidly as expected.

And while dairymen looked at the weak support of the Fund, all of Pennsylvania agriculture was examining the cuts in ag appropriations in the proposed State budget.

Of the 120 milk dealers in Pennsylvania only 31 have elected to contribute to the Milk Security Fund.

The remaining 98 dealers have chosen to offer a bond as security.

All of the cooperatives in Pennsylvania have opted out of the Milk Security Fund for co-ops.

Needless to say, this leaves the Milk Security Fund less than awash in funds.

At a mid-week meeting, dairymen and representatives of the dairy industry were told there was a total of \$73,000 in the fund as of January 31, 1981.

Meanwhile, the fund is budgeted for roughly \$50,000 in operating expenses, leaving a paper-thin margin for paying dairymen should a dairy go under.

Currently, dealers pay one cent per cwt milk into the fund. Hank Geisinger, representing the state milk dealers, again suggested a split payment of one cent by dealers and one cent by dairymen as the answer to building the fund more rapidly.

Also suggested was requiring a bond from all dealers.

In the meantime, Pennsylvania Farmers' Association began an investigation into what it feels can be done.

At the same time, Governor

Richard Thornburgh proposed a \$7.2 billion dollar budget with no increase in taxes.

On the other hand agriculture, already a minuscule part of the budget, saw itself cut back about five percent in total funding.

Last year's general government operations budget was \$15,504,000; this year it is proposed at \$14,838,000 according to Deputy

Secretary of Agriculture Chester Heim.

Total Department budget is projected at \$29,447,000 from last year's \$29,925,000.

"We're kind of happy the governor is cutting down on spending," Heim noted, "but we wish he'd let us have more."

Included in the budget is a \$200,000 line item for promotion

and research.

The Department had submitted a cut-back budget, but the figures came back somewhat tighter than expected.

At present, the Department is examining the budget, hoping with good management it will not have to cut services.

It would have taken nearly a \$1 million increase in last year's

budget to maintain programs, salaries, and the like at last year's levels if allowance is made for increases and inflation.

In the meantime, Ag Department officials will prepare themselves for hearings before the House on Tuesday, February 24, and before the Senate on Tuesday, March 3.—CH

Berks crops day features soybean growth

BY LAUREL SCHAEFFER
Staff Correspondent

LEESPORT — Berks County farmers gathered last Thursday in large numbers at the county Agricultural Center, here for their annual crops day organization by the county extension office.

Discussed were corn, soybeans, small grains, fertilizer, crop insurance, and a pesticide training update. Elwood Hatley, Penn State University extension agronomist discussed small grains and soybeans.

With soybean production, Hatley emphasized the importance of proper management. He explained the difference between two types of soybeans; indeterminate and determinate. Determinate beans are more branching while indeterminate beans have more of a main stem and are the beans grown in this area.

To reduce lodging and increase the chances for higher podding on the stems, Hatley said population was the key. Producers should plant by number of plants per foot rather than pounds per acre, he

urged. Hatley recommended three plants per foot in seven inch rows, noting environmental factors such as drought conditions has an effect on the size of the soybean seeds.

The agronomist recommended narrow row widths, because they produce higher yields and make weed control easier.

Also noted was the importance of seed depth, noting because of their relatively large size the soybean needs a high amount of moisture to germinate which must be supplied by the soil.

Seed should be 1 1/2 inches deep because of its need for water.

Another factor to consider is crusting, the producers learned. Because the seed itself is pushed up when germinating the necks can be broken off easily in soil with a crust over it. Planting the seeds at 1 1/2 inches also protects them from herbicides.

Hatley also discussed the importance of inoculation especially in soil planted with a different crop the year before. "Make sure you are getting enough on," Hatley urged.



Elwood Hatley, left, PSU extension agronomist; Roland Feeg, Womelsdorf, farmer; and Guy Braxton of Monsanto, commercial exhibitor, talked about the coming season during the Berks County crops day.

Other speakers and topics were Joe McGahan, Penn State Extension Agronomist, discussing corn and pesticides for corn, Lynn Hoffman, Penn State University Extension Agronomist, discussing profitable crop rotation, Bill

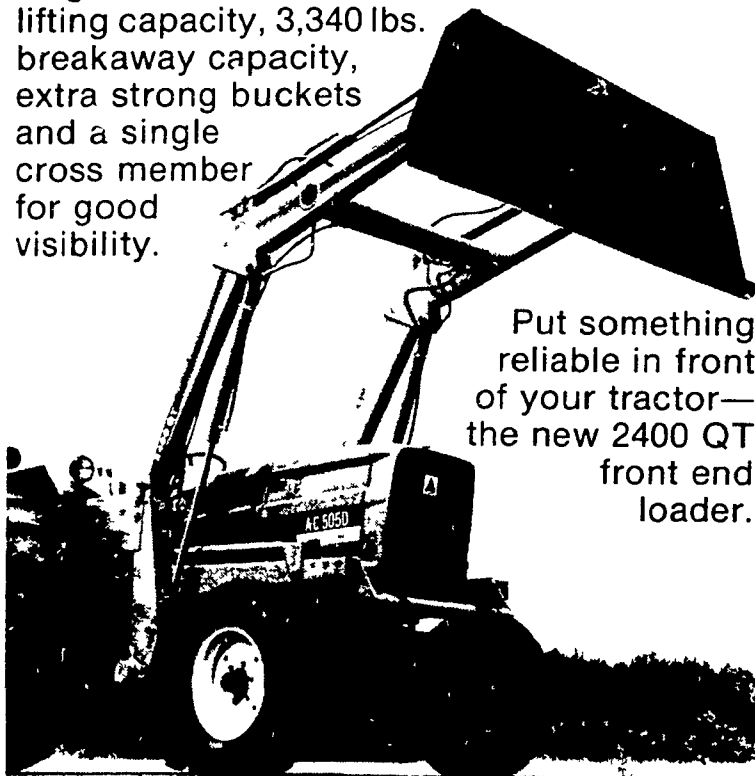
Myers, review team for USDA Federal Crop Insurance; and Bill

Angstadt, Jr., of Reading Bone Fertilizer Co., with a fertilizer situation update, along with Mel Kramer of Agway.

Only one thing should come between you and a big loading job...

BUSH HOG'S NEW 2400 QT LOADER

Tackle the toughest loading job with confidence behind this new quick attach loader from Bush Hog®. It features 2,400 lbs. lifting capacity, 3,340 lbs. breakaway capacity, extra strong buckets and a single cross member for good visibility.



Put something reliable in front of your tractor—the new 2400 QT front end loader.

Get the edge on tough jobs with BUSH HOG'S NEW REAR-MOUNTED BLADES



MODEL 55

You'll have a working edge over even the biggest jobs with Bush Hog's new rear-mounted blades in widths from 5' to 10'. Each is designed and built to give you outstanding performance and durability. Built-in features include solid 3/8" steel construction with welded box channel bracing, 15 degree tilt on most models, two-sided beveled cutting edge and offset action of 37", 30", 23" or 12".

GET AN EDGE ON YOUR NEXT JOB — GET A BUSH HOG REAR-MOUNTED BLADE!

SEE YOUR LOCAL BUSH HOG DEALER

BENCE'S FARM EQUIPMENT
RD 2
Bedford, PA 15522
814-623-8601

THOMAS L. DUNLAP
RD 1 Box 105
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
717-398-1391

MILLER SALES & SERVICE INC.
Stewartstown, PA 17363
717-993-2470

FARMERSVILLE EQUIPMENT, INC.
RD 4
Ephrata, PA 17522
717-354-4271

PETERMAN FARM EQUIPMENT, INC.
225 York Rd
Carlisle, PA 17013
717-249-5338

CLAPPER FARM EQUIPMENT
RD 1
Alexandria, PA 16611
814-669-4465

NEUHAUS'ES INC.
RD 2
York, PA 17403
717-428-1954

REEDY BROS. CO.
RD 4
Gettysburg, PA 17325
717-334-3710

A. L. HERR & BROS.
312 Park Ave
Quarryville, PA 17566
717-786-3521

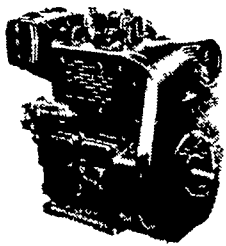
CHAPMAN EQUIPMENT CENTER
RD 2
Wescosville, PA 18106
215-398-2553

IVAN J. ZOOK
Belleville, PA 17004
717-935-2948

GEORGE N. GROSS, INC.
5261 Davidsburg Rd
Dover, PA 17315
717-292-1673

UMBERGERS MILL
RD 4 Box 132
Lebanon, PA 17042
717-867-5161

STOLTZFUS FARM SERVICE
Cochranville, PA 19330
215-593-2407



Let Us Know Your Service Problems
HOOVER DIESEL SERVICE
PH 717 656 6133
2998 West Newport Rd
Ronks PA 17572

"BIG GUYS" BOYS' BOOTS



JUST LIKE DAD'S

Here's a boy's style, lightweight comfort and wear to spare. Stop by and see our selection of these like-father like-son boots.



BOOKS SHOE SERVICE
107 E STATE ST
QUARRYVILLE, PA 17566
717 786-2795
CLOSED WEDNESDAYS