

Northern tier extension holds annual meeting

BY JANE BRESEE
Staff Correspondent

WYSOX — The annual meeting of the Northern Tier Regional Extension Association was held at the Wysox Presbyterian Church last Friday.

Roger Madigan, state assemblyman from the 110th representative district, Bradford County, Robert Summerville, assistant to Senator Henry Hager, county commissioners and chief clerks from the five northern tier counties, regional and county extension agents; and County Extension Executive Committee board members congregated to hear the program of the Cooperative Extension Service

Fred Hughes, Coordinator of the Agricultural and Natural Resources Extension Programs from Penn State, was introduced by David Jayne, vice-president of the Executive Extension Committee of Wyoming County.

Hughes stated that the objectives of the Agriculture Program are to promote profitable farming, an adequate food supply, clean environment, preserve the natural resources, and to conserve energy. The program is aimed at the 53,000 commercial and part time farmers in the state in addition to agribusiness personnel, and homeowners.

Teaching, research, and extension, the three-fold program

from Penn State, envelopes 13 departments pertaining to agricultural related fields. The size of the program and rapid development of technology makes it difficult for Extension people to keep up in all areas.

For example, livestock housing and equipment is becoming highly mechanized, new weed programs must conform to DER regulations, and dwarf apple trees are being pruned into trestle shapes.

Hughes biggest concern is for the young farmer who runs a half million dollar business generating \$100,000 a year.

"These young farmers are not sufficiently trained to handle large business," Hughes said, and they don't realize they are having financial difficulty until they are almost "down the drain."

"These people will not attend our meetings or do much reading. We cannot help them until they ask for assistance," Hughes fretted.

According to Hughes prediction, popular programs in the 80's will be concerned with forestry management and preservation, water preservation and water quality, preservation of wild life, and energy conservation. Computer programs are probably behind schedule, although, full time farm management specialists with computers have been employed.

Mrs. Dora McCarty, a delegate from Sullivan County to the Pennsylvania Council of Cooperative Extension Associations, reported that 67 county extension executive committees have paid dues into the council. She emphasized the importance of the executive committees to ascertain the needs of their counties and press changes through the Pennsylvania State Extension authorities and through legislation.

Following luncheon, the county

and state legislators were recognized.

The County Extension agent from each Northern Tier county introduced his 4H agent: Priscilla Bush of Susquehanna County, Sandra Rose from Tioga County, Kathy Worthington from Sullivan County, and Robert Hobbes of Wyoming County each reported successes in promoting 4H in his county.

The featured afternoon speaker, Richard Bartlett, Tioga County Commissioner, and president of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Commissioners, spoke about effective government.

He emphasized the need for citizens and their leaders to work together.

Francis Turner, Area Community Development Agent, adjourned the meeting by announcing that March 19 has been decreed National Agriculture Day.



Francis Turner, left, Area Community Development Agent from the Northern Tier Extension Region, visited with Fred Hughes, Coordinator of Agricultural Extension Programs from Penn State, at a meeting of the Northern Tier Extension Association held at Wysox.

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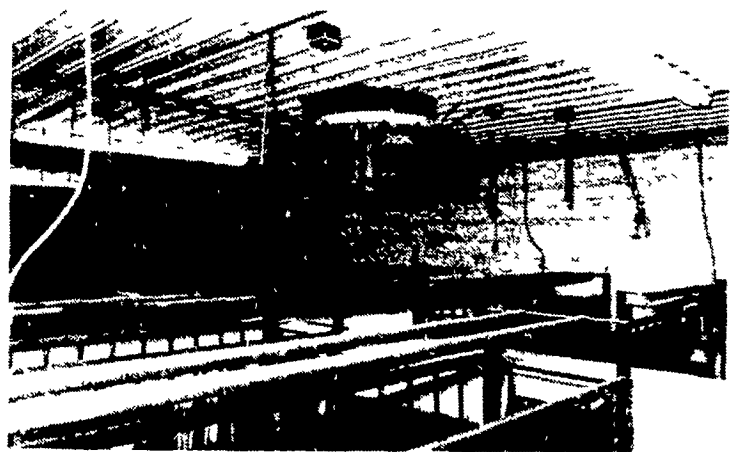
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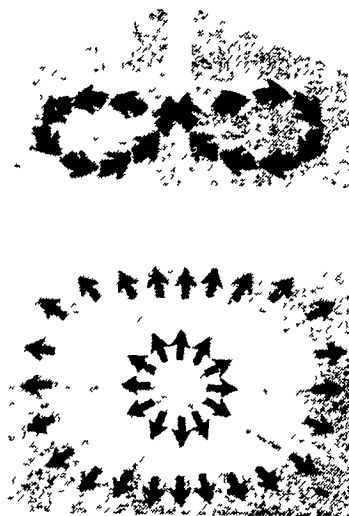
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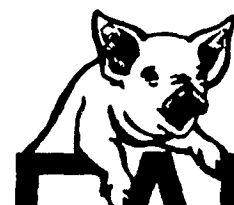

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