

Holstein chairman looks at ag future

LITITZ - "Animal agriculture faces some very significant challenges in the years ahead as population increases in relation to the amount of fertile land and natural resources."

This statement summarizes comments recently made by Robert H. Rumler, chairman of the Holstein Association of America.

He stressed the need for new technology through expanded research. He said many agricultural leaders claim that "the storehouse of knowledge in

animal research has been used up." Other leaders say "the reservoir of unapplied technology is nearly exhausted."

"The consuming public, accustomed to relatively low food prices, has even greater cause for concern," he stated. "In 1965, Americans spent about 20 percent of their disposable income on food, tobacco, and beverages. This proportion declined to 18 percent in the early 1970's, and to 16.5 percent by 1977. By 1979, the figure had dropped to 15.9 percent."

The Holstein Association official spoke highly of a "multidiscipline" approach to research, one that is expanding. The concept is gaining attention, he said, in Federal research budget planning.

He gave special attention to the situation created when people think there is competition between humans and domestic animals for food in the United States and for export to needy persons worldwide. He indicated this is a moral issue to many people.

"Unfortunately, people do not understand that grain will be fed to livestock, here and in other countries, when it is economical to do so," he affirmed, "adding that 'it is not automatic to export grain 'released' from feeding animals."

Rumler pointed to the ability of domestic animals to convert large quantities of forage into highly nutritious food on land not suited to produce other edibles consumed directly by humans. These same grasses and forages, he noted, are vital to conserve and maintain soil resources on land not readily adapted to crops.

"We must maintain a balance on much of our farmland between crops which can cause soil losses, and grasses and forages which conserve and maintain soil resources," he stated. "Such a balance mandates animal agriculture—completely aside from the issue of cereal grains versus animal products for human food."

The Dairy and Livestock Day

speaker called attention to the need for improved marketing and commented, "we have done as poor a job in marketing our products as we have done a good job in producing them." He advised dairy and livestock farmers to be more concerned about their products from "pasture to the plate."

Rumler predicted that the developing countries of the world will make much larger demands on world grain markets in the 1980's than they have in the past. He said experts predict that the total world grain trade will double by 1990. The U.S. alone, he added, currently accounts for nearly 60 percent of all grain traded internationally. Thus the U.S. is coming closer and closer to the razor's edge of deficit production, especially of grain.

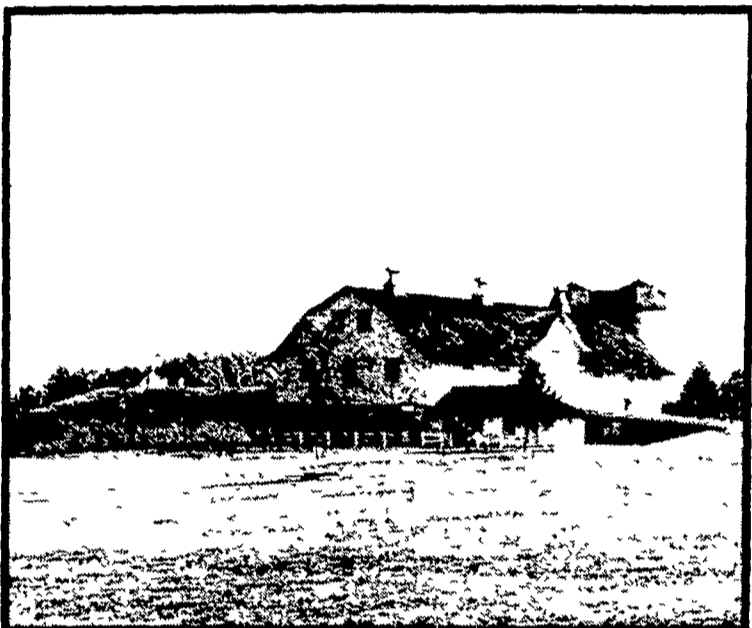
He listed certain concerns shared mutually with the total

agricultural community. First, he said technological advances have been capital intense, substituting capital for labor. Interest rates, obviously, are high.

Production technology, on the other hand, is energy-tense, with energy costs going up. He said, also, that inflation tends to influence speculative producers more heavily than other types with agriculture generally speculative. Then too, productive land areas are being reduced with available lands usually marginal in quality.

Rumler mentioned loss of water resources as a mutual concern for all aspects of agriculture. And he pointed out that public policy with respect to agriculture is generally as unclear as it is uncertain. In dairying, for example, he predicted the next six months may determine "how well those policies will remain glued together."

Barns (Continued from Page E3)



With sunlight catching on angles, this barn's shadows blend milk house and addition with the original modified hip-roof structure. This piece of the past is nestled in among the modern split-level homes which house the Milton Hershey School students today.

Berks sets banquet

BERNVILLE — Reservations will be accepted until this weekend for the joint annual Berks County Conservation District-Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service banquet.

The banquet is open to the public and will be held on Friday, April 3, at 7 p.m., in the Tulpehocken High School, R2 Bernville.

A family style roast beef dinner will be served. Price of admission

is \$7 for adults, and children under 12 years of age, \$3.

Charles J. Adams of radio station WEEU will emcee the program and the Leroy A. Schoener Trio will entertain during the dinner hour.

Conservation awards will be presented and door prizes will be given away.

Please call for reservations 215/372-4655.

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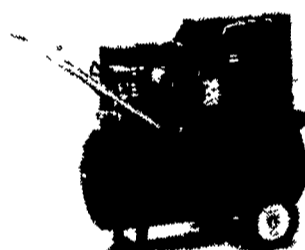
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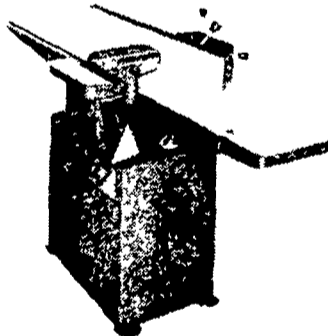
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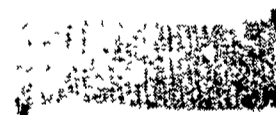
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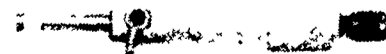
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