

Lancaster Farming

VOL. 26 No. 22

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, March 28, 1981

\$7.50 Per Year

Jay Irwin named Extension director

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

LANCASTER — Jay W. Irwin, whose educational efforts and guidance as agricultural extension agent have been in the forefront of the growth of a county poultry industry that has more than quadrupled in the past decade and a half, has been named Lancaster County Extension Director.

Irwin, who came to Lancaster County in 1967, succeeds Max M. Smith, who has retired after 44 years of service.

When Irwin began his extension duties in the county in 1967, a 30,000-bird house was considered a large poultry facility. The value of poultry production in Lancaster County was then valued at about \$30 million.

Today, new poultry houses have capacities of some 80,000 birds. Already by 1979, poultry production had grown to a \$125 million business in Lancaster County.

In addition to his efforts on behalf of the poultry industry, Irwin has been very active in farm management, conducting educational sessions and advising farm families in various



Jay W. Irwin

agricultural fiscal areas, such as estate planning.

In 4-H, he has been engaged in youth work, including the horse and tractor clubs and capons.

Irwin has received a number of awards for his outstanding educational programs for both youth and adult farm groups.

In 1970, he received the Career

(Turn to Page A24)

Friends remember Max Smith

BY SALLY BAIR
Staff Correspondent

LANCASTER — "Max Smith was a man of dedication, a man purpose and a man of insight."

These words of Marian Deppen, capital region administrator of the Extension Service, express the feelings of many as they talked about Max's retirement after 44 years of dedicated service to Lancaster's agricultural community.

Although himself never a member of 4-H as a youth, it is probably for his work with Lancaster County's 4-H members that Smith will be most fondly remembered.

All those interviewed expressed admiration for Max and his outstanding success with young people, indeed, his ability to work successfully with all people was recognized as a key factor in his productive career.

Herman Purdy, retired Penn State extension livestock specialist, put it succinctly, "I travel all over the country judging and consulting and Max is the most outstanding county agent I have met. I've judged in 44 states and he is the most outstanding — the top one."

Purdy credits Max with getting young people interested in

(Turn to Page A32)

State to bleed hogs in extensive PRV survey

BY SHEILA MILLER

TERRE HILL — Bureau of Animal Industries officials of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture outlined a survey involving an estimated 200 hog farms in Lancaster County during a special meeting on Thursday afternoon at the Union Grove School.

The survey, which is planned for April and will encompass 50 square miles, will give state veterinarians a better handle on the extent of the pseudorabies problem and the plausibility of an eradication program.

It was a poor turnout of farmers though, with only a half dozen attending the session.

"We needed a rainy day instead of a bright sunny day," said Dr. John Cable, head of the Swine Division of BAI. "Everyone is out working in the fields."

Those farmers who were in attendance listened as Dr. Max VanBuskirk, BAI chief veterinarian, discussed the details of the survey.

"At the present time, there have been 30 herds of swine infected with pseudorabies in the state — mostly in Lancaster County. There are still 29 herds under quarantine," he said. "We would like to eradicate this disease, but first we need to know the scope of the problem."

The area earmarked for the concentrated survey surrounds the nucleus of the present herd infections, from the northern limits of the Pa. turnpike, east to Bowmansville and Goodville, south to New Holland and Leola, and west to Ephrata. Three two-man teams of BAI technicians will visit every hog farm in the designated area and will take

random blood samples from about 20 to 25 hogs, depending on herd size.

"By knowing how many herds are infected with pseudorabies, we will be able to decide if the state and the industry can afford to eradicate the disease," explained

Van Buskirk. "If the cost is prohibitive and there's too much of an impact on the industry, we may have to live with the problem."

"We're not concerned in knowing which hog in the herd has

(Turn to Page A38)



Farm safety honors were presented to William A. Reagan, left; Shirley Garner; Bob and Ken Messick, Messick Farm Equipment, Inc. All were honored for helping make Pennsylvania farms safer places to work.

Safety programs gather laurels

BY CURT HARLER

STATE COLLEGE — The Pennsylvania Agricultural Safety Council Thursday honored several members of the area farm community for outstanding contributions to farm safety.

Shirley Garner, Rt. Mount Joy, was presented the special in-

dividual award for her leadership in promoting farm safety.

Ken and Bob Messick, Elizabethtown machinery dealers, were given the industry award in recognition of their opening their shop to emergency rescue crews so they could practice farm rescue techniques.

Franklin County Extension Agent William A. Reagan took first place in the professional educator category, an award coming after he invested 25 years of work with youth.

The awards were presented at the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Ag Safety Council, held at the Nittany Lion Inn.

Mrs. Garner has worked for health and safety in Lancaster County for the past several years. She is chairman of the Health and Safety Committee of the Lancaster Farmers' Association Women's Committee.

She has worked over the past two years with fire and emergency crews dealing with farm equipment rescues.

She expanded her program from four training programs in 1979 to six in 1980. A total of 228 men and women from 55 County fire companies participated in this year's programs.

The Messicks, who sell IH and New Holland Equipment, have conducted safety programs for over 300 rescuers in Lancaster County. Included in those numbers are programs sponsored by Mrs. Garner.

(Turn to Page A36)

Farm bill held, dairy cuts move

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Agriculture Secretary John Block this week postponed bringing the 1981 Farm Bill before Congress, preferring to wait until the fate of S-509, the dairy support bill, could be resolved.

The Farm Bill package was to be presented to the House Agriculture Committee on Tuesday and the Senate Committee on Wednesday.

The Senate overwhelmingly passed S-509, a measure which eliminates the April 1 price support boost.

But even when the Farm Bill program is presented, probably next week, it will be far from final. The Senate and House of Representatives, with plenty of help from the farm lobby, will have their chances to change and amend the measure.

Although the Bill will contain

what the Reagan Administration wants in the way of a farm program, the final picture could be quite different from what Block takes to Capitol Hill.

Many observers predict a drawn-out fight, perhaps even a Presidential veto of congressional changes, before the bill becomes law.

Dairy and grain programs are of most interest to local farmers. And those programs will be among those most radically changed.

Sizable chunks will be carved out of the Farmers Home Administration budget, perhaps over 50 percent, if Reagan's men get their way. That will mean tough sledding for farmers getting started.

Higher interest rates also are likely on FmHA loans.

(Turn to Page A39)

Dairy reports

Holstein show this week, A25; Top Brown Swiss herd, A34; Mifflin DHIA, C30; ADA meets, C32; York DHIA, C36; Franklin DHIA, C41; Berks DHIA, D2; Berks dairy princess, D6; Perry DHIA, D8; Prefab milking parlor, D16.

News and features

Guernsey breeders meet, A26; Poultry banquet set, A37; Northampton ag awards, B3; Bedford County fire, C20; Saving soil, C22; York PCA manager, C28; Manheim Young Farmers, C46; Tobacco outlook, D11.

Regular columns

Editorials, A10; Letters to editor, A12; Ida's notebook, C5; Have you heard? C8; Joyce Bupp, C27; Sheila's shorts, D10; Ask the VMD, D13.

Home and Youth

Mrs. Ruth Smith, C2; Home on range, C6; Farm women societies, C9; Kids Korner, C10; 4-H news, C12; Learning in FFA, C26; Solanco FFA, C40; Grassland FFA, C44; Grange royalty, D19.