

Wetzel to serve as Berks extension director

LEESPORT — Herbert A. Wetzel, Berks County Extension agent on Penn State's Extension Service staff, has been named county Extension director, effective March 1.

Thomas B. King, Penn State associate dean for extension, points out that Mr. Wetzel is responsible for program coordination of the Berks County



Herbert A. Wetzel

Extension Service. He succeeds James F. Haldeman who retired last August.

A native of Orrtanna, Adams County, he has been a member of the Berks County staff since 1961. He also served in Delaware and Northampton counties from 1957 to 1961 and was an officer in the U.S. Army.

Wetzel received a bachelor of science degree in agronomy from Penn State in 1957 and is completing requirements for a master of agriculture degree in Extension education, also at Penn State.

The new county Extension director coordinates educational programs for fruit growers in southeastern Pennsylvania. He also conducts Christmas tree cultural programs for growers in Berks and Schuylkill counties.

Wetzel assisted in the development of community garden projects for approximately 400 county residents who grow vegetables on land provided by the County Commissioners and City of

Reading Recreation Department.

The Extension agent coaches the Berks County 4-H vegetable judging team. He also worked with the area Extension marketing agent in developing a 4-H tailgate vegetable marketing program.

Wetzel organized and conducted a series of schools for fruit and mushroom growers, along with their sons and daughters.

IN 1975 he was state winner of the O.M. Scott Professional Improvement Program for his educational horticultural programming.

The agent is a member of the Pennsylvania and National Associations of County Agricultural Agents, Epsilon Sigma Phi society, and Penn State Alumni Association.

He is married to the former Patricia Ann Donegan, of Nesquehoning. They are the parents of two sons.

Maryland dairymen hold line on milk

HAGERSTOWN, Md. — Supply-side economics and management are nothing new for progressive Maryland livestock farmers, notes John W. Wysong, Extension farm management specialist and professor of agricultural economics at the University of Maryland.

In recent years, dairymen in the Old Line State have improved their on-farm efficiency through "reallocating processes," Wysong says, and they set a new state record of 12,358 pounds of milk per cow in 1980.

At the same time, they have restrained their total marketable milk production largely in line with changing total consumer demands for Class I fluid milk and dairy product uses in the Mid-Atlantic milk marketing area.

However, at the national level, dairy farmers in 1980 set an all-time record output of 128.1 billion pounds of milk with a record average production of 11,827 pounds per cow. This represented a net expansion of nearly 12 billion pounds of milk from just five years earlier, Wysong points out.

Last year's high U.S. production has resulted in a softening of manufactured milk prices at wholesale and a buildup of federal

government commercial storage holdings, Wysong observes.

As a result, milk prices relative to other animal product prices—such as beef, lamb, pork and broilers—are being reviewed by the Reagan administration for possible changes in the support price levels in line with estimated production costs and historical parity price relationships.

Class I utilization of fluid milk in the Mid-Atlantic milk marketing area (Federal Order 4) has declined from about 65 percent in 1970 to about 51 percent in 1980 as total production in the area has expanded, Dr. Wysong points out.

These total production increases occurred even though Class I poundage for fluid uses declined. Per capita demand for fluid milk also declined during this period to offset population and consumer income gains.

Meanwhile, Class II utilization increased sharply from 1970 to 1980 as production of cheese, butter and dried nonfat milk powder expanded to meet market requirements.

This expansion in Mid-Atlantic area milk output since 1970 has occurred principally in Pennsylvania, Wysong says.

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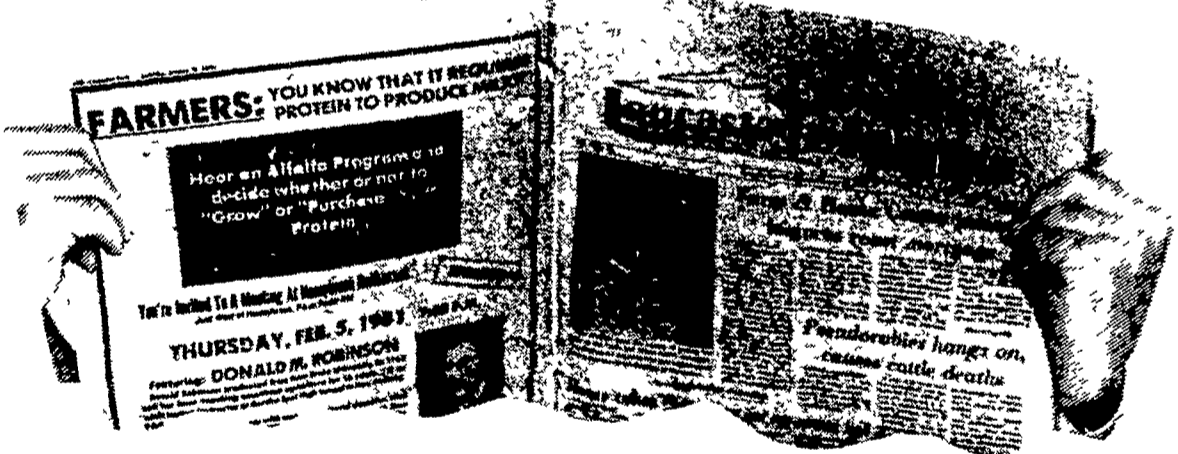
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