

## Lancaster County to hire new extension agent

LANCASTER — The Lancaster County Extension Service Thursday began to review applications for the position of county agriculture agent.

With the retirement of Max Smith as County Extension

Director, one position on the extension staff was opened.

Jay Irwin, county agent in charge of farm management and poultry, was named to replace Smith as Extension Director.

Irwin will continue to perform his duties in those areas, but now a new person is needed to take over Smith's responsibilities other than his administrative duties.

According to Irwin, the Extension Service is reviewing applications for a county agent with a livestock background, and preferably, a minor in agronomy.

There should be no shortage of applications for the position.

The last time the Lancaster Extension office interviewed for a county agent's position over 70 persons applied for the job.

Irwin said the position is open for either an assistant or an associate level county agent.

An associate agent would bring more experience to the position, but it may be more difficult for the County to hire an associate agent. Because of the costs of moving, buying and selling a home, and other expenses, hiring such a person probably would be more expensive.

The next step after the review of applications is to call in those persons who seem to qualify for the job for a personal interview.

No set number of personal interviews is planned, Irwin explained, because some of those with applications on file may have found other employment.

There is no time limit on how long it could take before the new extension agent will be hired.

"We hope to have someone on board within two month's time," Irwin said. "But that depends on the person's availability."

Irwin noted that a college student may need time to be

graduated, or a person holding another position may have to give

notice to the present employer — CH

## Cross-breeding

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selected to avoid calving difficulty and associated higher death losses in calves.

Opportunities for optimizing genetic composition for such traits as growth rate, mature size, and milk production should therefore be greater because of the ability to select between breeds in identifying contributors to composites.

In 1969, SEA geneticist Gordon E. Dickerson, Lincoln, Nebr., suggested the potential for using heterosis through the formation of composites, as an alternative to more complex crossbreeding systems. Information from the Germ Plasm Evaluation Program (GPE), begun at Clay Center the same year, as well as a 20-year crossbreeding study begun by Gregory in 1957, were the basis for initiating the current project.

GPE provided detailed information on production traits in breeds varying widely in biological type to help guide selection between breeds used in forming experimental composites. Twenty breeds — both old, established ones and recently introduced exotics — were evaluated throughout their life cycle. More than 5000 crossbred calves were produced.

Three composites are being developed at Clay Center.

MARC I, a general-purpose composite with a moderate degree of excellence in paternal performance traits, is based on a five-

breed foundation. One-fourth each Charolais, Brown Swiss (predominantly European), and Limousin, and one-eighth each Hereford and Angus.

MARC II, a general-purpose composite suited to good environmental conditions, is one-fourth each Hereford, Angus, Summental, and Gelbvieh.

MARC III, adapted to a less-favorable feed environment and with a moderate degree of excellence in maternal characteristics, is one-fourth each Hereford, Angus, Pinzgauer, and Red Poll.

Gregory and associates will concentrate on improving selection methods, with emphasis on developing more effective selection procedures for reproduction traits, during the 6 more years needed to complete foundation matings. During the foundation period, researchers are also determining retention of heterosis by comparing performance of composite populations to that of contributing purebred populations.

Selection within the resulting composite populations and the contributing foundation purebreds will then extend perhaps two or three generations.

Will the composite concept prove practical? Preliminary scientific evidence indicates it should. But the final answer will not come quickly — cattle have a generation interval of 4 to 5 years.

## Maryland to hold first wine, grape meeting

FREDERICK, Md — Maryland Department of Agriculture and the University of Maryland have announced the State's first Grape and Wine Conference for Thursday, April 30 to be held at the Frederick Sheraton off I-70 and I-270.

Advance registration for the dinner conference will be \$12 per person until Monday, April 27. The registration fee after that date will be \$13 per person.

At this historic event, key resource people from the University of Maryland, Maryland Department of Agriculture and USDA at Beltsville, will outline

their programs and functions including the results of the first official vineyard survey taken in Maryland which is just being completed.

Also on the program, recommendations for 1981 on herbicides, fertilizer and insect and disease control will be made.

The program will begin at 3.00 p.m. with a keynote speech on growing grapes in the East.

Following dinner, the group will meet Maryland's winery operators. Of much interest to Maryland growers should be a lively panel discussion by key growers, from different geographic areas of the State, on their variety preferences and experiences with growing grapes.

The evening program will conclude with an open meeting of growers to entertain comments, proposals or any other appropriate subjects of interest to the general grape growing industry.

Make checks payable to Maryland Wine & Grape Conference, and mail your reservations to: Maryland Wine & Grape Conference, C/O Maryland Department of Agriculture, Parole Plaza Office Building, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.



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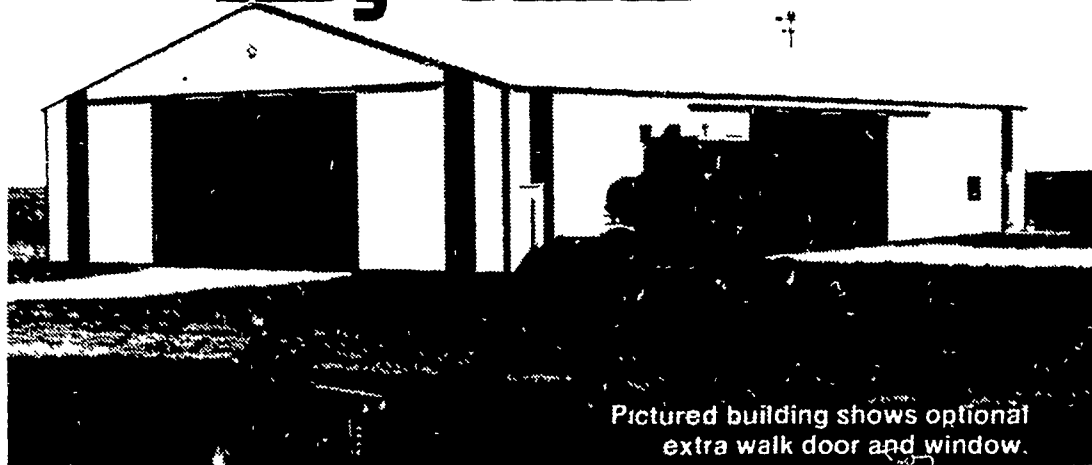
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