



Block said he is elated about the end of the Soviet grain embargo. He also took the opportunity to express his sentiments about the proposed Farm Bill and encouraged the farmers' support. Humorous tales of his

childhood on the farm brought a hearty laugh from Pennsylvania Farmers' Association President Eugene Thompson, right, and Director Keith Eckel.

## Block

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the prospects of peace.

"We have a strong administration. We won't carry ineffective baggage like the embargo that's discriminatory against farmers," Block exclaimed.

Concerning the political problems in Poland, Block noted the Soviets didn't invade after the announcement of an embargo end.

"They exerted restraint to date," he said. "We'll have to deal with those problems as they present themselves."

When asked what the embargo's effect will be on future grain sales to Russia, Block stated negotiations have already begun to reach a future sales agreement.

"How strong a customer they'll be, we can't predict," he admitted. "Whenever trade is interrupted, the supplier becomes suspect. They may rely on the other countries whose trade they've cultivated."

However, Block did predict what would happen to the price of grain

here in the U.S. He said he saw a "generally stonger market for grain with higher prices by fall." He added the high grain prices might encourage dairy farmers to sell some of their cows.

"That might not be a bad idea considering the current surplus," he chuckled. He added dairy producers would then see price support higher and a balance of supply and demand.

Block claimed there is an ample supply of grain in stock — 250 million bushels of feed grain more than what was thought and a 5 month supply of wheat.

"It looks like the hogs in the U.S. didn't eat as much as we thought they would — maybe they were my hogs," he laughed.

Block emphasized farmers are in the business of selling their products, and agriculture's life blood is exports. He said this year's grain stocks should be more than adequate to meet both the domestic and export needs of the U.S.

Another issue on the Secretary's mind was farmland preservation. He stated the federal government will take a leadership role in

helping to save the farmland. However, he pointed out the responsibility lies with state and local governments. He announced an inter-agency committee has been set up at the federal level to study farmland preservation.

Block advised farmers to keep abreast of political issues, stating "Agriculture needs to work together in the political process. Politics affects farmers' lives, whether they're parking a car or buying a loaf of bread. If farmers aren't watching, they'll be unaware of decisions — they'll have to live with the results."

He reassured the PFA members that he is making an effort to staff USDA with people whose philosophy on agriculture is in tune with the administration's philosophy.

"We have experienced people who want to safeguard agriculture. It's a tremendous team and one I'm proud of. You can judge by our performance — I'm excited about what we have to offer."

Block encouraged his audience to support the Farm Bill legislation — even the dairy producers who are fighting for 75 percent parity versus 70 to 90 percent. Block said he sympathized with the dairy producer's hard life which he recognized as a drain on the farm family, having grown up on a dairy farm, himself.

"What we're saying is give us flexibility to get those stocks reduced — now. Stocks are accumulating at an astounding rate. By October 1, you may see 69 to 70 percent parity. I'm afraid producers aren't cutting herds as fast as they should be."

Block stressed, however, the new Farm Bill is designed for everyone — consumers, too — and is not only to serve farmers.

"The new Farm Bill is 'outstanding,'" he exclaimed. "It's in keeping with the President's philosophy on a free agriculture — one that's more reliant on the market than on price allocations and deficiency payments."

"By relying on supply and demand, farmers will be giving up some security. But there are profits to be made in the market place — I know that's how the farmers really want it."

## Cantaloupes

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Before last year's start of the supermarket program with Acme, the sale of cantaloupes off the Eastern Lancaster County farms had largely been an individual effort — either through roadside stands or to some local markets.

Martin said that farmers often found themselves with only one of two possible options many times during the peak of the season.

"Some people would drive up from the city and get a truckload for as cheap as a dime apiece or the farmer could dump them over the back fence," he said.

Even last August, cantaloupe specials were seen at stands along Rt. 322, featuring prices of 10 for a dollar.

It is expected that the county cantaloupes will be bulk shipped to central warehousing and distribution facilities for the supermarkets located in Philadelphia.

One of the biggest local needs may be a packing facility to inspect, grade and package the cantaloupes, according to George Perry, of the Farmer-Consumer Services Association, Inc., of West Chester, which last year was involved in a sizable pepper growing-marketing project in Eastern Lancaster County.

"Twenty-seven acres of peppers were grown last year," Perry said, "but there are no plans for any this year."

"It was a bad year to try such a

venture. Growers ended up with less than a 50 percent crop.

"It was bad because of the drought and the extreme heat during the latter part of August caused a blossom drop. Growers lost two or three pickings during that time."

Perry said that the Farmer-Consumer Association will not be involved with county growers this year, other than the marketing of some cantaloupes.

"We've had some more meetings in the area," Perry said, "and still want to spur interest in the growing of vegetables."

"We still believe that it is much more attractive financially for the farmers. We've found that there are a couple of sizable obstacles that must be worked with concerning the fresh market in that area. Those are communications and transportation for these perishable products."

In another phase of the Lancaster County fresh produce growing market, it is expected that processing tomato acreage may be increased this year, too.

It has been reported that contracts up to \$90 a ton have been arranged for this year, which would be a sizable increase over the \$72 a ton which was paid last year.

Many of the processing tomatoes are grown in the southeastern section of Lancaster County, particularly in the area below Paradise.

## At first fund drive

# FARMER hosts Block

HARRISBURG — The first fund raising banquet for FARMER, the political action committee of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association, was held here last Friday evening.

The success of the campaign, with its 200 supporter turnout at \$100 a plate, could be attributed (at least in part) to the drawing card in keynote speaker John R. Block, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

FARMER is a bi-partisan, voluntary, tax deductible, fund raising political action committee. PACs are a relatively new

concept occurring in politics. Recent changes in election laws make PACs a legal method for groups to donate money to people seeking public office.

Serving on the FARMER committee are: Christian Wolff, Millville, chairman; William Moore, Region 1, Myerstown; John Stoner, Region 2, Mercersburg; Frank Bertovich, Region 3, Bentleyville; George Gredg, Region 4, Grove City; Frank Sankey, Region 5, Clearfield; and Gary Reichard, Region 6, Honesdale.

## Guernsey sale

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They were consigned by Thomas Lurvey and Chester Williams, of Baraboo, Wisc.

Their dam is Willow Brook C. Dena, who holds three national class leading records, including 35,170 pounds of milk and 1385 of fat in 365 days as a four-year-old. At Ex-91, she is the top cow for milk and fat production in the breed.

Their dam is Willow Brook D. Denuse. The grand dam was bred by Vaughn Moore, of Chambersburg. Both the dam and the grand dam went through the sales ring at the Guernsey Sales Pavilion in Lancaster.

A two-year-old, also sired by Clovelly Top Hornet, brought \$12,000. Fauver Hill TH Fredella was consigned by Bernard Tralle, of Onalaska, Wisc, and purchased by K. A. Forster, R2, Lynden, Ontario, Canada.

A couple of the consignments also had Pennsylvania connections at the sale, which had the highest average for consignment events in the history of the breed.

Applebrook Fayvors Susie, consigned by Donald Brown, of Oxford, was sold for \$3,000. She went to the same home as the top selling cow. She is a daughter of Housleys Dari Fayvor.

Pen Col Top Hornet Pastel, bred by Chris Wolff, of Millville, Pa., brought \$6,800. She was sold to C. E. Cottung, of Chedco Farm, Berlin, Mass. An Excellent daughter of Top Hornet, she was milking 95 pounds a day at the sale.

Some 500 people were in attendance at the sale, which was held on April 11. There were consignments from a dozen states and active bidders from 15 or more states and Canada.

Bernard Tralle, Guernsey owner and breeder of Onalaska, Wisc., explains that by the end of the year all Guernsey owners in the state should be realizing the added income from the component pricing for protein.

Wisconsin began the practice three years ago and participation in the added income has expanded from the 10 or 15 percent of Guernsey owners who took part the first year.

The component pricing features a payment of 25 cents a point for protein over 3.2.

The component pricing on the average is adding \$1.00 a hundredweight to milk checks, or about \$150.00 added income per cow, Tralle estimates.

"The component pricing has gone above and beyond anything we have ever imagined," he said.

## PRV survey

# nears completion

HARRISBURG — The pseudorabies survey currently being conducted in Lancaster County by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industries is 75 percent complete, reports Chief Veterinarian Max Van Buskirk.

"We expect to complete the blood testing within ten working days and should be pretty nearly finished by May 10," he stated.

He pointed out, however, the test results will not be completed in the laboratory for at least another week after the blood testing is finished.

Since the survey began in early April, seven new herds have been positively identified as being in-

fectured with pseudorabies, bringing the total to 33. These herds are under quarantine, said Van Buskirk. He pointed out several of the infected herds have only a small number of hogs.

The seven additional pseudorabies infected herds are not adjacent to one another, Van Buskirk said, but are within the original problem area.

The state veterinarian said he was pleased with the cooperation the state testing team was receiving from Lancaster farmers.

"The farmers have been excellent to work with and everything has gone smoothly," he stated.

## USDA recounts embargo facts

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In response to the invasion of Afghanistan by Soviet troops on December 27, 1979, President Carter on January 4, 1980, ordered the suspension of grain sales to the Soviet Union except for the 8 million tons per year of corn and wheat the U.S. was committed to sell under the U.S.-USSR Grain Supply Agreement.

The embargo, effective January 7, 1980, was invoked for national security and foreign policy reasons under the Export Administration Act. Besides grain, it covered soybeans, animal feed ingredients, seeds, meats, poultry products, dairy products, and certain animal fats, and it required prior approval for exports to the USSR of most other agricultural products. (High

technology industrial items also were embargoed, and in February fertilizer was added to the list.)

The grain sales agreement had been negotiated in 1975 to cover 5 years (October-September), beginning October 1, 1976, and ending September 30, 1981. Under its terms, the Soviet Union agreed

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