

# October is Cooperative month

HARRISBURG — Consumers throughout the nation are celebrating October as Cooperative Month. Each year, October is set aside to recognize the nation's cooperative enterprises and the many services they provide for their owner/consumers.

"Now, more than ever before, the cooperative way of doing business makes sense," said William F. Matson, executive vice president of the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association. Rural electric cooperatives comprise one of the largest bodies of cooperative membership in the Commonwealth. "By establishing cooperatives," Matson commented, "consumers assume the responsibility for providing vital services for themselves and their neighbors."

In some cases, consumers are motivated to form cooperatives

because they know they can provide services for themselves at a lower cost than profit motivated businesses. In other cases, cooperatives are formed to fight monopolies through the introduction of competition into the marketplace. And in yet other cases, are formed because privately-owned businesses are either unwilling or unable to provide important services because there just isn't enough profit to be made. In all cases, however, cooperatives represent an important segment of the free market economy, says the REA spokesman.

Almost all cooperatives adhere to the same simple principles: first, membership is open to all who can use the cooperative's services. Second, in the setting of cooperative policy, each member has an equal voice and vote in the decision-making process. And

third, cooperatives operate on a nonprofit basis, returning what would normally be profit to members on the basis of their patronage.

All kinds of enterprises are represented among the nation's 50,000 cooperatives: electric and telephone service; farm marketing and farm supply; credit unions and farm credit; housing; food retailing; insurance; health care, and day care. All together, more than 60 million Americans receive services from cooperatives.

During the most recent year for which full statistics are available (1977), 115 farmer cooperatives provided services worth more than \$1 billion to over 72,500 Pennsylvania members. In addition, the Commonwealth's 13 rural electric cooperatives provide service to over 600,000 farmers and other rural residents.

Residents of urban areas also receive the benefits of the cooperative way of doing business. Food, housing, day care, and other types of cooperatives serve consumers in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Erie, and the Commonwealth's other urban centers.

## Farm Calendar

Today, October 17

Penn National Horse Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, continues thru Oct. 24

Eastern Sheep Production Workshop, Carroll Co. Agri. Center, Westminster, MD, 9:30 a.m.

Hunterdon Co. feeder calf sale, Flemington, N.J., Hackettstown Auction Mkt., 1 p.m.

Monday, October 19

Lancaster County Farm Assn., Park City, "Farmer's are your friend"

PFA promotion week at Park City

Tuesday, October 20

16th National Poultry Health and Condemnation Mtg., continues tomorrow, DelMarVa Convention Hall, Delmar, MD  
Ephrata Area Young Farmers Mtg., Ephrata Sr. H.S., 7:45 p.m.

Thursday, October 22

Adams Holstein Banquet, York Springs Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

Friday, October 23

York Holstein Assn. Annual Mtg. and Banquet, Avalong Farms, 7 p.m.

## OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

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### Dairy industry faces 'meat cleaver'

The dairy industry in Pennsylvania could suffer a fatal blow if a meat cleaver approach is used in reforming the federal dairy price support program.

The dairy price support program was developed over a period of years. It was gradual in its development. Reform should take the same approach.

Dairy producers in Pennsylvania and across the country would be afflicted with a fatal blow "if a meat cleaver approach is used in reforming the federal dairy price support program.

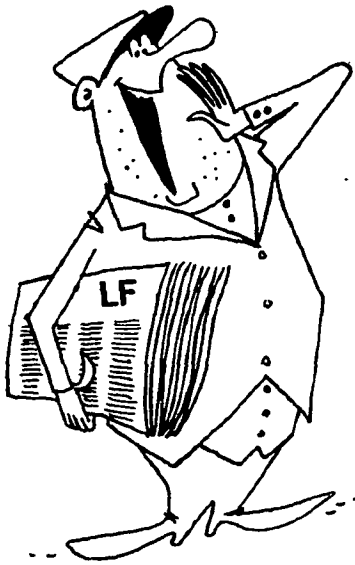
Dairymen in our state have voiced a need for change through

our organization. But, they called for gradual reform so that they can adjust their business in a sensible manner. A crash program would put farmers in an economic straight jacket.

We know that milk is in a surplus position. It's going to be extremely painful for farmers in the next 18 months to balance demand with supply.

Under provisions of the House approved dairy price support program, farmers would have a fighting chance to adjust.

Keith Eckel, president  
Pa. Farmer's Assoc.



## Now Is the Time

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acquainted with our non-farm neighbors.

We urge farmers to invite their nearby neighbors to see their farm operations. In many cases a better understanding of the various farm operations will eliminate disputes and hassles about noise and odors. Also, I would encourage farmers to become involved with community activities. You'll find that people that understand each other seldom have serious problems.

### To Prepare For Cold Weather

The month of October is a good time to get ready for freezing weather. Water cooled engines should be treated with anti-freeze solutions, or drained after being used. Most anti-freeze solutions contain a rust inhibitor to protect the radiator and engine from rust damage.

Exposed water pipes need attention to keep from freezing. They may be buried at least 30 inches into the ground or wrapped with electric heating cable.

Thawing frozen water pipes on a cold morning is not pleasant; frozen cooling systems in tractors and motors are expensive. Prevent

these problems by getting ready for freezing weather in the near future.

### To Store Pesticides Safely

With the close of harvest season, it's time to make sure pesticides are properly stored.

First of all, be sure to store them in a safe place where children, pets and farm animals cannot get to them. If you don't have a separate storage room it's a good idea to build a cabinet in a cool, dry, well-ventilated building. Then always keep the storage room or cabinet locked, preferably with a combination lock so there are no keys to lose.

Always store pesticides in their original containers so they can be used according to label directions. Never store them in soft drink bottles, fruit jars, or other containers that children might mistake for food or drink.

Liquid pesticides should be stored in temperatures above freezing. Wettable powders and granular pesticides should be stored in a cool, dry place. The area does not have to be heated but containers should be sealed so that they do not draw moisture.



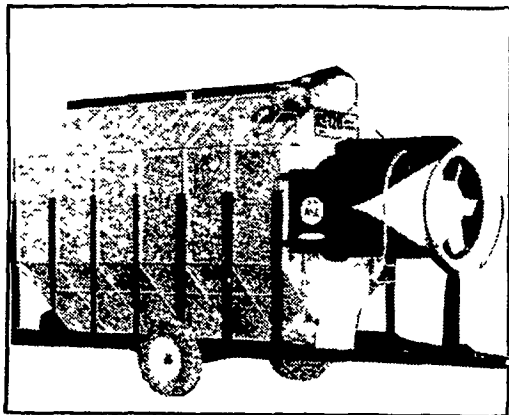
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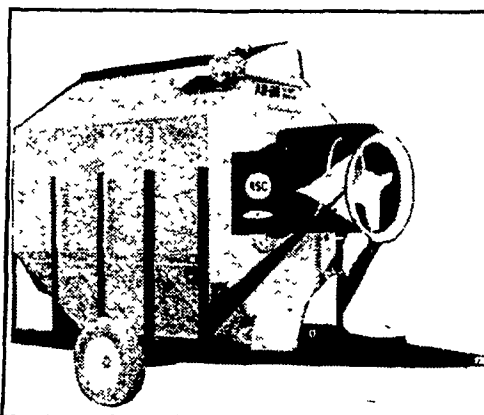


## INVENTORY SPECIALS



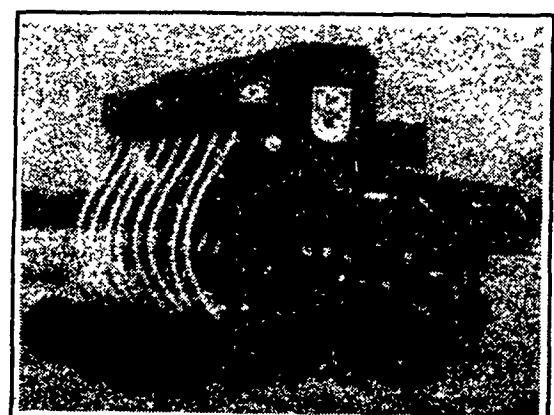
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