

Alcohol still highlights Berks conservation tour

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LEESPORT — Berks Countian had the opportunity to visit several unusual agricultural enterprises operating within their county last week during the Animal Conservation Tour held on last Thursday.

One of the stops on the tour was the farm of Bill Weaver, East Greenville. Here tour participants saw an on-farm ethanol still producing 190 proof alcohol. It was being utilized in several gas engines including a new pick-up truck.

Weaver explained to the group that the alcohol he was producing was less hazardous than gasoline and demonstrated his point by igniting a little of both and then adding water. When water was added to the gas, the fire spread. But when it was added to the alcohol, the fire decreased in size until it went out. This was because the alcohol mixed with the water, diluting the alcohol until it was no longer combustible.

The host also explained that alcohol is harder to burn in a combustion engine. It must be warmed up and the engine must

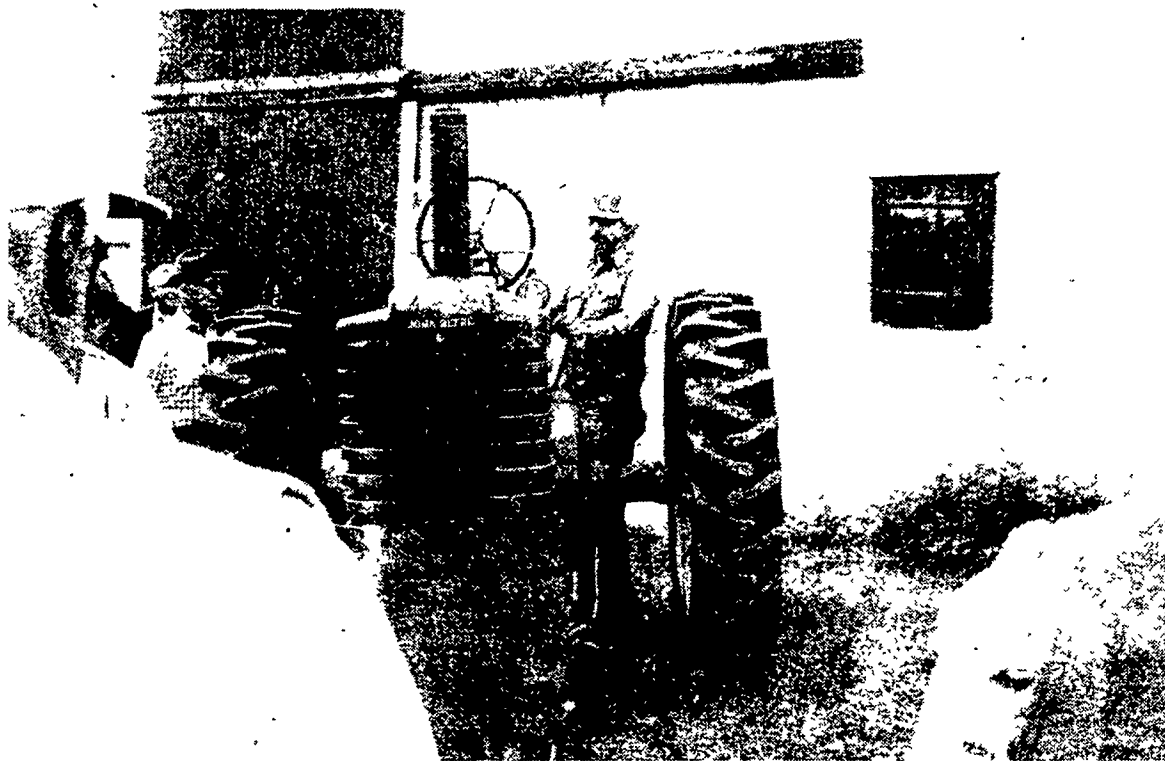
have a higher compression ratio than when burning gasoline.

The still being used by Weaver was originally from Harrison and Ellis, Corporation, Ga. but Weaver made a few modifications of the components. It produces a batch of alcohol every three or four days, using 20 bushels of corn or an equivalent. Weaver explained that any starchy product, corn or some other source can be used in making ethanol. Presently he is using 10 bushels of corn and adding "junk" sugar (too dirty for consumption) to replace the other ten bushels of corn.

This mixture is cooked and fermented with the addition of commercial yeast, then distilled. Each batch produces approximately 40 to 50 gallons of 190 proof alcohol and 350 pounds dry weight brewers' grains, tested at 28 percent protein.

Weaver has been feeding the wet brewers' grain or "stillage" to his beef cattle. He explained that by pumping carbon dioxide gas through the stillage it has been kept up to three weeks with no spoilage but he eventually wants to build a dryer for it.

The host also demonstrated a pick-up equipped with two gas



Bill Weaver, East Greenville demonstrates a John Deere A tractor running on alcohol distilled on his property during last week's Berks Conservation tour.

tanks and fuel pumps recently modified to burn gas or alcohol by the "flick" of a switch. Weaver started the truck using gas then switched it over to alcohol. He explained that the compression ratio of the engine was set at 12:1 to run either fuel without further adjustments. Also demonstrated was a John Deere A tractor modified to run on a 50-50 mixture of gas and alcohol, and a small indoor kerosene heater which was burning alcohol as well.

The conservation tour participants also visited Rodale Organic Farms in Emmaus, and the Wilson Rohrbach farm in Mertztown where they saw a round hog house.



Weaver tells tour participants about his Ford pick-up recently modified to run on gas or alcohol.



Today, October 24
Lancaster Co. Society 26 to entertain their husbands at an Old Fashioned Dinner Party
Lancaster Co. Society 4 to meet

with Mrs. Harriet Kauffman for a craft day
Thursday, October 29
Lancaster Co. Society 11 to take a bus trip

Brenton Upperman sweeps Franklin steer show top honors

CHAMBERSBURG — The 46th Annual Franklin County 4-H Baby Beef Club Show and Sale was held at the Greencastle Livestock Market last Monday.

The grand champion steer, a 1,140 pound Angus-Chianina crossbred was shown by Brenton Upperman of Chambersburg. The champ was purchased by Rice's Meat Market, Ridge Road, Waynesboro, for \$2.05 a pound.

The reserve grand champion was shown by Holly McLaughlin, R1, Greencastle. The 1,215 pound Charolais steer was purchased by Safeway Food Stores for \$1.65 a pound.

The lightweight champion, shown by John Amsley of Chambersburg, weighed 940

pounds and was purchased by the J.C. Penny Co., Hagerstown for 90 cents a pound.

The mediumweight champion, show by Dana Statler, Greencastle, weighed 1,005 pounds and was purchased by the Butcher Shoppe, Chambersburg, for \$1.08 a pound.

The light heavyweight champion, shown by Jere Wingert, St. Thomas, weighed 1,125 pounds and was purchased by Smith's Implements, Mercersburg, for \$1.10 a pound.

The medium heavyweight champion, shown by Nicole Lebo, Greencastle, was purchased by Laurich Estates Builders. The 1,180 pound steer sold for \$1.25 a pound.

The heavyweight champion shown by Regina Lebo, Greencastle, was a 1,260 pound Charolais. It was purchased by Hostetters Truck Bodies, Milroy, Pa. for \$1.21 a pound.

A total of 53 steers were sold, averaging 1,046 pounds and selling for \$103.97 per hundred weight. The 53 head represented 55,445 pounds of beef on the hoof and sold for \$57,645.43 one of the most outstanding sales in recent years.

In showing competition, Donnie Sheiss, Chambersburg, was novice champion, and Regina Lebo, Greencastle, was intermediate champion. Junior honors went to Scott Kline, while Brenton Upperman was the Senior Champion.

In fitting competition, Nicole Lebo, Greencastle was the novice

champion while her sister Regina took the intermediate group championship. Junior fitting champion was Scott Kline while Brenton Upperman was the Senior Champion.

Championship honors in both Fitting and Showing were awarded to Brenton Upperman.

The show was judged by Max Smith, retired Lancaster County Agent.

Other buyers supporting the sale were: Stoutter Bros.; Uppermans Surge; Twigg Insurance; McDowell Insurance; Hicks Chevrolet; Lehman Egg Service; Laurich Estates Builders; Gibbles Potato Chips; Agway Inc.; Ruperts Meat Market; The Butcher Shoppe; Citizens National Bank; Agronomy Inc.; Farmers &

Merchants Bank, Chambersburg; Porter's Furniture; Steelys Meat Market; Martins Tire Service, Frank Shieves; Mrs. Gibbles Restaurant; E.C. Barns Inc.; Chambersburg Waste Paper Co.; Weikerts Meat Market; Chambersburg Farm Service; Eshland Enterprises; Forrester Lincoln Mercury; W.D. Weaver Meats; Sunnyway Food Market's; R & R Custom Butchers; Pizza Hut, Chambersburg; Snyders Elevator; Fast Gas Co. - Greencastle; Olympia Candy Kitchen; Oliver Oil Co.; and Rosenberry's Meat Market.

The Franklin County 4-H Baby Beef Club is sponsored by the citizens National Bank in Greencastle and the Greencastle Livestock Market.

Block urges cooperation to eliminate food problems

SEOUL, South Korea — Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block termed "very important" a decision by the commissioners of the European Community not to propose a tax that would have reduced exports of U.S. soybeans to that market.

Speaking last Tuesday at a meeting of U.S. agricultural officers stationed in Asia, Block said. "We are pleased the commissioners decided not to recommend imposition of this tax. That does not mean all of our difficulties and problems are solved with the Common Market, but we are very glad to see this move. Europe is a very important market to us. Our soybean market there is worth almost \$2.5 billion annually."

The proposal under consideration by the EC commissioners would have imposed an internal tax on vegetable and marine oils and fats including oil crushed from U.S. soybeans. The United States has maintained such as tax would violate a zero duty binding on soybeans obtained from the EC during the Dill Round negotiations in the 1950's under the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade. The proposal was one of the trade issues Block discussed with EC leaders in European capitals last May.

Block spoke at a conference of 18 agricultural counselors and attaches posted at 15 U.S. embassies and consulates from India to Japan.



Brenton Upperman, Chambersburg, poses with the grand champion 4-H Baby Beef he showed at the recent Franklin County Round-up. The reserve champion was shown by Holly McLaughlin, R1, Greencastle.