

# Lebanon County celebrates another success

PRESCOTT — A week-long celebration of farm and city folks getting to know each other in Lebanon County was culminated here at the filled-to-capacity Fire Hall Thursday evening as the second annual Farm-City Banquet drew to a close.

As a fledgling stretches its wings, so the Lebanon Farm-City committee tried out some new flight patterns in getting this public relations event off the

ground this year. Making its debut on the Lebanon Farm-City activities calendar was the legislative breakfast, held Monday at the Treadway Inn, Lebanon.

Last year's successful farm and business tours and job exchanges between farmers and businessmen were restaged this year, along with the popular Sheep to Shawl contest, poster contest, and farm equipment display, held for the second year at the Lebanon Valley

Plaza Mall.

More than 50 Lebanon County farmers and ag business representatives were updated on the current farm-related legislation being worked on at the state capital. They listened to comments made by Lancaster County's Rep. Noah Wenger, vice chairman of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, and Bill Sonntag, legislative aide to Sen. Edward Helfrick, chairman of

the Senate Ag Committee.

"There are strong ties between neighboring Lancaster and Lebanon counties," remarked Wenger. "We both have similar economies, agriculture, industries, commerce, and tourism."

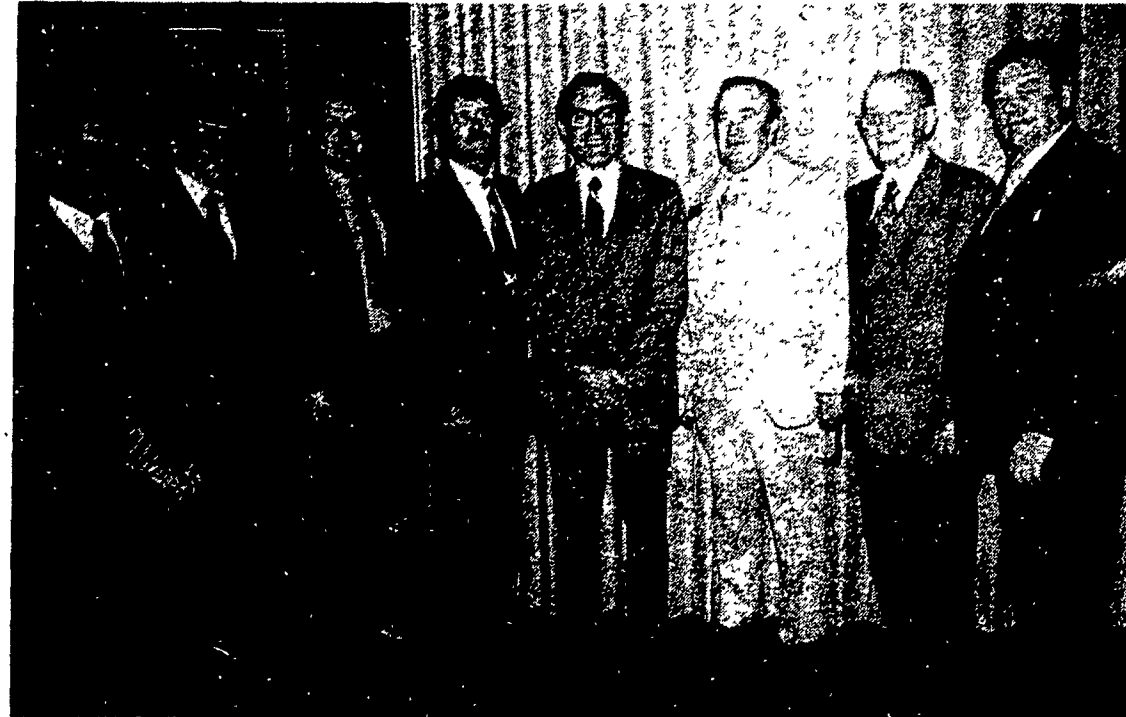
Wenger recognized that agriculture in both counties has suffered economic hardships, with "two years, back to back, that were unprofitable." This economic crisis that is surrounding the agricultural industry will also have a profound effect on other businesses in the community, Wenger pointed out.

Wenger reviewed some of the current legislation in the Commonwealth that affects the farm community, citing Act 43 which permits local governments to outline agricultural districts along with House Bill 1823, the Right to Farm Bill. "I'm encouraged and optimistic that HB 1823 will pass the House this calendar year," exclaimed the bill's prime sponsor, adding that he hopes the Senate will pass the legislation early in the next session.

Wenger was not as enthusiastic about two other pieces of legislation, the Tax Reform and the Water bills.

"According to a Penn State study, farmers, in relation to income, are paying too much tax," commented Wenger. "The Tax Reform Bill does little to alleviate this problem."

"I believe the idea of changing from a real estate tax to an income tax is sound. The worst part is the business occupancy and use tax which would require small merchants who lease their stores to have to pay tax and the landlord would no longer have to pay real estate taxes."



Legislators and farmers gathered in Lebanon on Monday morning for the Lebanon Farm-City Legislative Breakfast. Pictured, from left, are Bill Sonntag, aide to Sen. Edward Helfrick; Dave Wauls, Lebanon Chamber of Commerce; Dennis Grumbine, program chairman; Rep. Nicholas Moehlmann; Rep. Noah Wenger; Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Chet Heim; Sen. Clarence Manbeck; and Rep. George Jackson.

"Nobody lives to themselves," he shared. "Whatever happens down on the farm will affect merchants on Main Street."

Wenger voiced his opinion that Americans are able to purchase wholesome, nutritious food at reasonable prices — "sometimes too reasonable compared to the cost of production."

Calling agriculture the "bright spot" of the economy, Wenger pointed out that "if it weren't for agriculture's exports, our nation's deficits would be worse than what they are now."

Pennsylvanians are lucky that the state's second largest industry is agriculture, noted Wenger, because this provides over \$2 billion in revenue and an important link in the food chain. "The local supply of food acts as a buffer to the high cost of fuel and transportation costs," he said. "In times of recession, we'll pull through better with our industrial mix than those states who have poured all their resources into one industry."

"Theoretically, these landlords are then supposed to reduce the rent according to their savings on taxes. Who are you kidding? These landlords will see this as their chance to catch up on low rental rates."

"The dollar for dollar tradeoff isn't realistic. The small merchant would have to pay the business use and occupancy tax — and if he makes any money, he'll have to pay an additional income tax. This will mean greater taxation for the

people who keep going."

Concerning the Wenger conceded the controversial bill "D.E.R. should have and only that, first mented."

"This legislation bureaucrats, who are known to be sensitive needs, in charge of ces." He noted that there is a growing concern Pennsylvania citizen possibilities of water s droughts, Wenger s weighing the choi weather and bureauc we're better off taking with the weather."

Speaking on Sen. Sonntag spoke to the Lebanon County far hazardous waste s mendations.

"Business has got to to put hazardous agriculture has to hav it. Business will be loo areas as the easiest p rid of the waste, re: serious impact on agri said.

To deal with the Sonntag announced t Helfrick's committee looking at tagging a Act 43 which wou hazardous waste sites t in agricultural districts

He also noted the would exempt manu structures from real es currently on the H awaiting the vote whic

Farmated Buildings

by Butler

SEE YOUR



BEFORE YOU BUY!






YOU BUY THE BUILDING...

WE'LL BUY THE CONCRETE!

That's right. Free concrete for the foundation when you buy a Butler farm building. Enough concrete for a curtain wall foundation.\*

And if you decide to pour a complete floor, we'll credit you the amount of concrete for the curtain wall foundation.

**OFFER ENDS NOVEMBER 30th**

\* Free concrete furnished is based on amount specified in Butler foundation drawings for 15# wind load, 16' high buildings, and concrete @ \$45.00 per cubic yard, offer not applicable on 1-bay buildings and roof systems. This Butler offer available only through participating Butler Agri-Builders.

**LEASE BUILDINGS & BINS ON MONTHLY PROGRAM**

**BUTLER MFG. CO.**  
Attn. P.E. Hess  
Box 337, Oxford, PA 19363

Dealer Inquiries Available in: Pennsylvania Counties Armstrong, Indiana, Erie, Crawford, Warren, Elk, Cameron, McKean, Clinton, Lycoming, Sullivan, Wyoming, Luzerne, Columbia, Butler, Mercer, Lawrence, Beaver, New Jersey Counties, Sussex, Morris, Passaic, Atlantic, Cape May

**No Dealer Fees.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(Include area code) LF

**KNOXVILLE CONSTRUCTION**  
Knoxville, Pa 16928  
PH. 814-326-4188

**B.T. CONSTRUCTION**  
P.O. Box 535  
Biglerville, Pa. 17307  
PH. 717-677-6121

**LEROY E. MYERS, INC.**  
Route #1, Box 163  
Clear Spring, Md 21722  
PH 301-582-1552

**D. E. SMITH, INC.**  
Mifflintown, Pa. 17059  
PH 717-436-2151

**POGO INC.**  
1841 Jerry's Road  
Street, Md. 21154  
PH: 301-692-5350

**FOUR COUNTIES CONTRACTOR**  
R.D., Box 249  
Coalport, Pa. 16627  
PH 814-672-5751

**HASC AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS**  
P.O. Box  
Chestertown  
PH. 301-7

WRITTEN WARRANTY

SEE YOUR AGRI-BUILDER FOR DETAILS!

**LEASE**  
See Your Agri-Builder For Details

★ VARIOUS SIZE WIDTH AVAILABLE  
★ THESE BUILDINGS ED FOR SELF ER will furnish Foundation Dr

← FREE CONCRETE