Wanted: farmer/advisors to help beginners

farmers and other members of the agricultural and agribusiness community to help beginning and part-time farmers.

This could be a want ad run by the Lancaster County Office of the selected throughout the nation to

LANCASTER - Wanted: retired who is now in the process of trying coming year in the program with a FmHA supervisor. to find representatives from the overall ag community to serve in its "New Full-Time Family Farmer Development Project."

Lancaster is one of the counties Farmers Home Administration conduct a pilot project during the

Berks Field Day

(Continued from Page A17)

parasites are quite common, Hoshall said examination of any beef cow, regardless of sex, age, breed or management will usually detect the presence of at least a few worms. Noting that severe parasitism can result in great economic loss, Hoshail said, subclinical parasitism may not economically justify deworming.

Hoshall explained the importance of preconditioning feeder calves on the farm of origin so they can better cope with the stress of feedlot adaptation. Explaining the program, the veterinarian recommended weaning a month before sale, castrating, vaccinating, dehorning, deworming, identitying, nd acclimating calves to eating grain from a bunk and drinking from a tank.

Craig Hill, an animal scientist from Delaware Valley College discussed feeding the steer for the correct market. Noting the extremes in cattle type, Hill said that most cattle can fit in the market place somewhere but no type is right for every situation.

With the ever increasing consumer awareness and development of fast food and ground beet markets, stronger demand has been shown on leaner quality grades, with greater emphasis on yield and cutability. This, explained Hill, means attention must be given to the decision of when to sell cattle.

Not only must feeders tollow the market, but they must follow the animal and be able to recognize when the majority of the animals will grade Choice 2 and 3.

the animal scientist reviewed the teeder cattle grades, explaining trame scores and the markets they would probably hit once ted.

Mike Fournier, Bucks County agent, discussed A.I. and estrous synchronization with the use of prostaglandin. Fournier einphasized that estrus synchronization is only as good as the A.I. technician, explaining that a technician that can only get 50 percent of the cattle bred the first time, will only have a 50 percent success in breeding the synchronized cattle. He also cautioned that it's use is only for good managers with good cattle handing facilities. It should not be handled around any pregnant women since the substance can cause abortion - in bred cattle as well.

Aiso, Fournier noted that estrous synchronization does not increase tertility, it only allows cows to show heat at the same tune.

Performance testing was discussed by Cheryl Moran, Chester County agent. Moran explained the importance of performance testing when choosing herd replacements and herd sires. She stressed that performance testing is a comparison of animals within a herd, not between herds.

Moran explained how pertormance testing works, the sumple practices needed to supply the necessary information and the low cost of enrolling a herd.

goal to help insure a continuing supply of full-time farmers.

An initial meeting of USDA agency members of the Lancaster County coordinating committee has already been held to get the program moving. Attending the session were representatives of ASCS, Federal Crop Insurance, Forestry Service, Soil Con-servation Service, Farm Credit, Extension Service and the Farmers Home Administration, which is acting as the central agency.

'We will be holding a second meeting during the coming week to explain how the program will work and what is involved," according to Patrick K. Freeman, county

"We want to enroll people in the private sector to get involved in the program"

The coordinating committee hopes to get "some new blood" from the farming and agribusiness community to serve in the program and not rely on the same farm people who traditionally serve on various committees.

Persons from the farming and agribusiness community can serve in several different capacities in the program:

-They could serve directly on the coordinating committee and help plan and oversee the program.

-They could serve as advisors in

a one-on-one basis with a beginning or part-time farmer to help with day-to-day management.

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-They could serve as a contact person to assist in the marketing of a particular agricultural product.

The central core of the program is the attempt to establish a group of retired farmers or other members of the ag community who would serve as advisors with a particular beginning or part-time farmer to get the operation on a sound footing and work toward a full-time business.

Persons interested in becoming involved in the pilot project should contact the Lancaster County Farmers Home Administration Office in the Farm and Home Center, telephone: 393-4760.-DA

Federal Seed Act sees changes

WASHINGTON, D.C. - On Nov. from the original proposal," 30, the U.S. Department of Agriculture made changes in regulations of the Federal Seed Act.

The new regulations include changes in methods of testing agricultural and vegetable seed, standards for certified seed and botanical names for certain seed, said Thomas H. Porter of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

Porter said changes in the regulations were proposed last June and hearings were held in Denver and Washington in July,

"The regulations being issued tihs week are slightly different

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Porter said, "because public comments resulted in USDA removing the definition of backcross and the procedure for detecting Rhizobium.

We also deleted prohibiting the particular class of certified seed when the minimum standards aren't established for that class and the proposed limitation of 3

percent offtypes to only nonfluorescent varieties of perennia ryegrass," Porter said.

The new regulations were published in the Oct. 29 Federal Register. Copies are available from the Livestock, Meat, Grain and Seed Division, Rm. 2603-S, Washington, D.C., 20250. Phone: 202/447-9340.



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