

PSU participates in computer study

UNIVERSITY PARK, — The Pennsylvania State University has received a \$76,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich., to study the feasibility of a farm and home computer system within the

Cooperative Extension Service in 12 northeastern states.

G. Art Hussey, state leader/computer services for Penn State's Cooperative Extension Service, will serve as project director. During the 10-month

project, Dr. Hussey will work with faculty members from selected land-grant universities to determine the current and future needs for computers throughout the region. The 12 states are New York, Delaware, Maryland, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

"This feasibility study will focus on workable alternatives," said Hussey. "We will examine the common directions and objectives of the Extension Service in the Northeast to plan the most effective uses for a region-wide system."

The project will, for example, determine whether home terminals using telephone and television are practical in the Extension Service. It will test whether home terminals can provide point-to-point communications and whether they can be used to collect information from farmers.

In addition to reviewing what other states have done to measure area support for computer use, the project will explore the use of home terminals to supplement the traditional on-the-farm visits, meetings and newsletters for technical educational materials.

Hussey said the practice of agriculture is similar among the 12 states so that information programs would be broadly usable. Most of the states, he added, are in the same initial stages of considering computer technology development.

A task force from six of the states will explore means by which a regional computer center or institute might be supported to

maintain Extension Service computer activities.

This project is similar to one conducted in northcentral states with Kellogg Foundation assistance. A computer institute is currently being established at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In 1930, breakfast cereal pioneer W.K. Kellogg contributed \$45 million in personal wealth to establish the Kellogg Foundation.

Using income from the bequest, the Foundation has made grants over the past five decades of more than \$584 million in the areas of health, education and agriculture.

The Foundation is today among the largest private philanthropic organizations in the nation. It supports programs on four continents, including the United States and Canada, Europe, Latin America, and Australia.

Lancaster District sells seedlings

LANCASTER — For the eighth year, the Lancaster County Conservation District is sponsoring its Annual Tree Seedling Sale. Orders are being taken from March 1 through March 26.

Seedlings can be picked up at the Lancaster County Central Park

Pavillion No. 1 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 17.

For more information, contact Nancy Burkhardt at the District Office, Farm and Home Center, Rm 6, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601, telephone 717/299-5361.

Chester Co. slates benefit square dance

WEST CHESTER — The public is invited to a benefit square dance to raise money for Penn State's Ag Arena.

The dance will be held on Saturday, March 27 from 8 to 11:30 p.m. at the Avon Grove High School gymnasium. Tickets can be purchased from the Chester

County Extension service or at the door. The prices are: \$10 for a family; \$5 for an adult; \$2 for students.

For more information on the benefit square dance, contact the Chester Co. Extension office at 215-696-3500.

Potato Growers are ready for annual meeting

STATE COLLEGE — The Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers, Inc. and Penn State's College of Agriculture are busily preparing for the 31st Annual Potato Growers Institute to be held March 3-4 here at the Toftrees Country Club and Lodge.

Key topics on the agenda include potato research, marketing, and grading; soil test reports; computers; storage management; new varieties; and minimum tillage. And Penn State's Dean of the

College of Agriculture, Sam Smith, will be the guest speaker at Wednesday evening's banquet. The Cooperative's annual business meeting will be held on Wednesday at 3 p.m.

Registration for the Institute, meals, and rooms are due this Monday. Contact Howard Featherman, general manager of the Potato Growers Co-op, at their Harrisburg office by calling 717/652-4200.

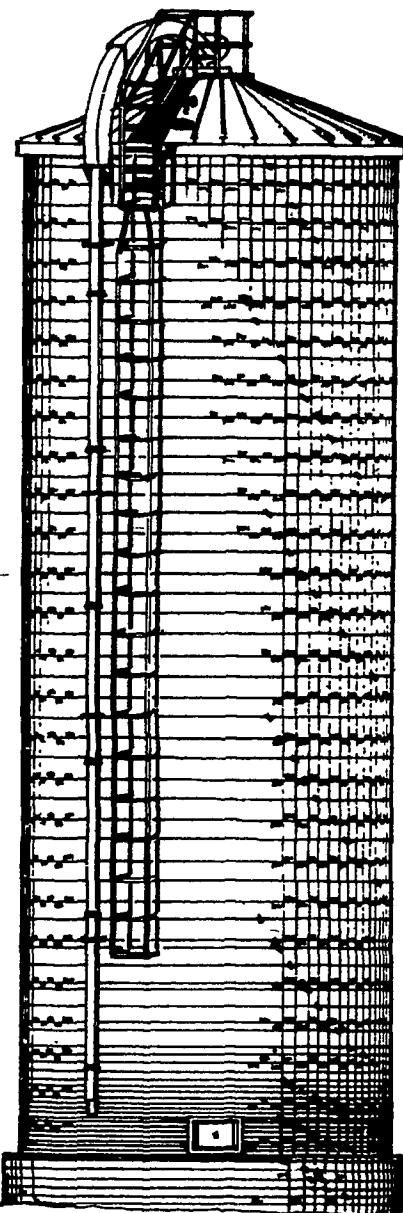
Atlantic honors dairymen



Lancaster County dairymen honored by Atlantic Breeders Cooperative at the District 4 meeting last week at Blue Ball Fire Hall include, from the left, Marvin Witmer, Warren Bollinger, Lititz; and Don and Nelson Weaver, of Weaver Homestead Farm, New Holland. The dairymen were honored for having DHIA averages at least 10 percent above the state average for milk or butterfat and at least two-thirds of their herds sired by Atlantic bulls. District 4 director Clyde Martin, of East Earl, told members that service technicians provided more than 300,000 services in 1981 and semen sales revenue increased to direct-herd breeders and through distributors.

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