

So.-Central Cattlemen honor York Angus breeder

EAST BERLIN — Walter and Nellie Laird, long-time members and tireless supporters of the beef industry, were honored by fellow beef producers during the annual Southcentral Pennsylvania Cattlemen's banquet, held Tuesday evening at East Berlin.

Named as cattlemen of the year, the Lairds are purebred Angus

breeders who maintain a 100-head cow herd on their Dover farm. Walter has been a director of the Cattlemen's Association since its beginning and has held various offices, including serving as president.

Both Walter and Nellie have played active roles in the feeder

calf sale, helping to organize and promote the event. Enthusiastic supporters of the 4-H program, Walter has been a beef club leader for 14 years, and has lent a hand to many youth getting started in the beef business.

The Lairds' are also active in the Pennsylvania Angus Association, helping to promote interest in the breed throughout the area and directing the organization's business and events.

Awards were presented to ten adults and two junior competitors with top results in the cattlemen's yield grading contest, held in January.

Bill Holloway, York, topped the list with the winning carcass, beating out runner-up Don Sunday also of York. Other winners were Carlton Jacobs, third; Leroy Bowles, fourth; and Walter Laird, fifth.

In the junior division, Stan Musser topped Bill Wise in yield grading results.

In an election that followed the dinner meeting, John Hausner, Dover, was re-elected to the office of president, with Walter Laird as his vice president, and Tim Livingston, Dover, chosen secretary-treasurer.

Livingston and Don Walters Airville, are two newly-seated directors on the Cattlemen's board, while Bill Holloway, York, and Ralph Dixon, East Berlin, re-elected to new terms as directors.

Other directors are Terry Shearer, Abbottstown; Paul Sloat, York; Charles Sunday, York; John Zimmerman, Marysville; Frank Darcey, Fairfield; and Paul Musser, Manchester.

Speakers for the program included Hal Hartwick, who spoke on worming cattle, Tim Stalkert on fly management, and a minerals presentation by Merrill Crone-JB.



Walter and Nellie Laird, left, were named cattlemen of the year by the Southcentral Cattlemen's Association. Presenting that honor was association president John Hausner.



Stan Musser, left, captured first place honors in the junior division of the Southcentral Pennsylvania Cattlemen's yield grade contest. Runner-up was Bill Wise.



Top senior awards in the Southcentral Cattlemen's recent yield grade contest went to, from left, Carlton Jacobs, third, Bill Holloway, first, and Don Sunday, second.

Walker blames deficit

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easy basket. However, if you break that press and move ahead, you're likely to get an easy basket yourself and go on to win the game."

Walker continued his comparison by stating that the political opposition to the Reagan Administration is making their case early in this election year because they're afraid the economy may turn around later. He said they are focusing on any nonpositive economic signs that might help to create political pressure now "which may help them survive a bad situation."

But, noted Walker, politics is only part of the nation's economic story. He took the seminar participants back one year and asked them what was they considered to be the root of the U.S. economy's problem. The answer was inflation.

Walker pointed out that our nation had been experiencing a steady double-digit inflation rate for "some period of time" prior to Ronald Reagan's inauguration in January 1981. At the time when Reagan took the oath of office, Walker said, the inflation rate in the U.S. stood at 12.6 percent.

Soon after moving to the White House, Reagan began to implement a series of economic measures designed to contain inflation. By December 1981, the annualized inflation rate had dropped to the single digits — 8.9 percent. And today, the inflation rate stands at 5.2 percent, Walker observed.

Walker credited the Administration for having successfully dealt with the nation's "most frustrating" economic problem by bringing inflation under control. Another area where he gave Reagan an 'A' for effort was in his economic program to decontrol regulated products, especially petroleum in March 1981.

Rather than watching petroleum prices skyrocket, Walker said decontrol stabilized and even lowered prices — just the opposite of what decontrol critics predicted would happen.

Still another Reagan maneuver to get the U.S. economy back on its feet again was given Walker's nod of approval — the controversial tax cut policy.

"The tax cut policy was put into place for some obvious reasons. The tax burden had been born in this country for a period of years

and was such that it was literally stifling, choking off economic growth. The average wage earner in this country was paying 45 percent of take home pay in taxes of one kind or another."

In a voice filled with conviction, Walker explained that as taxes continued to increase during this period, the economy slipped steadily downward. Reagan's program, he said, was designed to stop that trend, to bring taxes down so the economy could grow.

But this plan found a stumbling block in Congress, said Walker, which delayed the tax cut until October 1981, and then it only amounted to a 5 percent cut "which resulted in very, very little in the average workers paycheck."

But some benefits did come from this tax cut program even though it was delayed, according to Walker. He noted that during last year's fourth quarter, there was a 15.3 percent increase in savings in the U.S. — the very kind of thing needed to get an economy growing again because it creates a large savings pool. More money is then available to everyone instead of the federal government taking it all to meet its deficit demands, he said.

Walker pointed to this dramatic savings increase as a sign that the basic principle behind Reagan's tax cut program is sound. But, the Jan. 1 Social Security tax increase robbed the wage earners of any benefits the 5 percent tax cut provided, and as a result savings dropped off.

"It's high time if we're going to face this recession, the unemployment and the lack of economic growth that we ought to accelerate those tax cuts. The tax cut that's due on July 1 should be retroactive to Jan. 1 — the one that's due July 1 next year should be made retroactive to Jan. 1 next year — to

get the economic growth cycle started early," exclaimed Walker.

Reasons behind Walker's encouragement for a step up in tax cuts hinge on two factors that are dampening the chances of real economic recovery: high interest rates, brought on in part by high federal deficits; and unemployment. Walker claimed these factors are linked directly together, and need to be addressed as a whole if a solution to the economic crisis is to be found.

"If you bring unemployment down by 3 points from its present level of 8.5 percent, down to the level of the early 1960s when there was economic growth in our country, the federal deficit would be reduced by \$75 billion," explained Walker.

How does he propose the unemployment rate can be dropped to 5.5 percent? According to the U.S. Congressman, the only solution is economic growth.

"You can't create enough public service jobs, you can't do the work at the federal level of creating employment," stressed Walker, forcefully. "The only thing that creates that kind of employment in this country is growth. And growth demands the kind of tax policy that allows people to keep more of their own earnings for themselves."

Walker conceded that economic growth is being hampered by present high interest rates.

"There has to be something done about the deficit levels that are causing the high interest policies. That's why I expressed my disappointment with the President's new budget which calls for a \$92 billion deficit. What this says to many people in the financial markets is the deficit is heading upward instead of downward despite talk of economic growth."

Walker said that Congress will

have to take action to lower the deficit so that markets can respond with lower interest which he said he hopes will be at the 11-12 percent level by the end of the year so that economic growth can get underway sooner. How? Several methods would include accelerating tax cuts, trimming the federal budget, and slowing the growth rates of entitlement programs, according to Walker.

Walker said he and his staff have come up with a realistic budget for the federal government which would have the deficit down to \$50 billion next year, a deficit of only \$7 billion in 1984, and a budget surplus by 1985.

Walker mentioned the possibility of decontrolling natural gas as another method for bringing about growth. "We would have more natural gas. Much like gasoline, I believe we would have a stabilization of the price rather than the federal government rationing the price upward whether it justifies it or not."

"At the same time, the government would be in a position to collect a windfall profits tax, which would help us tremendously in balancing the budget — that's

worth about \$15 billion a year. This would be a growth policy that produces new revenue."

Walker called on the seminar participants to get in touch with their congressmen and ask them to investigate alternatives for balancing the budget. He warned them not to believe legislators who claim they can balance the budget only through increased taxes and no tax cuts.

"That would be sheer economic madness at the present time to do that because it would choke off all chances of growth. We'd go back to the same stagnation we had over the past several years. We'd have economic decline rather than economic growth."

"You need economic growth, the country needs economic growth, and if we can begin to develop policies that move us toward economic growth, we can have it. But it's going to be up to you during the weeks and months ahead to shake off the pessimism and begin to look optimistically at what can happen."

"The base of the program is in place, the opportunity is there, we need only now to seize the opportunity," Walker concluded.

Fruit meeting Thursday

LANCASTER — The Lancaster-Dauphin-Lebanon fruit meeting will be held on Thursday at the Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road.

The day-long program begins with a business meeting for the Lancaster County growers at 9:30 a.m. Topics and participants include:

Fruit crop, concerns, nutrition and soil preparation - C. Marshall Ritter, Penn State Extension pomologist.

Fruit tree diseases including

scab, fireblight and cytospora canker - James W. Travis, Penn State Extension plant pathologist.

Marketing and promotion - Ray F. Reiter and Larry W. Wright, Bureau of Markets, Pa. Dept. of Agriculture.

Insects and mites - Robert C. Tetrault, Extension entomologist.

The program will conclude with a question and answer period on tree fruits and a discussion of practices to improve production of fruits, strawberries, brambles and grapes.