

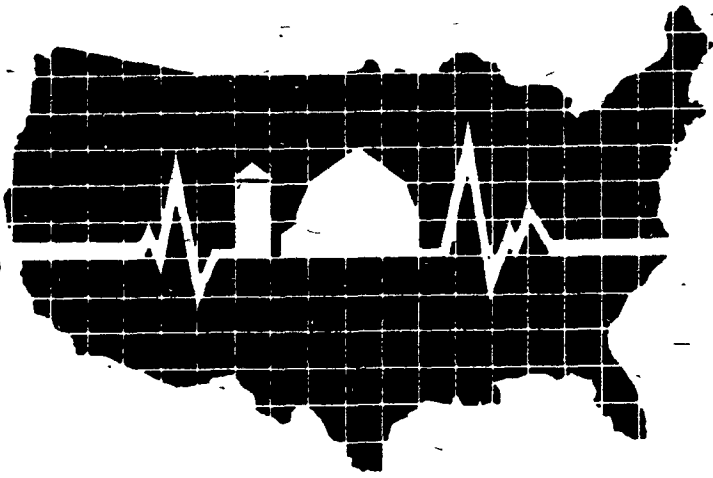
# Lancaster Farming

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## AGRICULTURE: IT'S YOUR HEARTBEAT, AMERICA



AGRICULTURE DAY • MARCH 18, 1982

## Ag Day salutes farmers

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ

LANCASTER — Agriculture Day 1982, a nationwide program to promote greater awareness of the contributions and needs of the American farmer and his occupation, will be celebrated this Thursday.

The day, appropriately titled "Agriculture — It's Your Heartbeat America," is directed nationally by the Agriculture Day Foundation and administered by the Agriculture Council of America.

According to Sam Smith, dean of Penn State's College of Agriculture, the day is "an occasion to remind other Americans of the strength of agriculture and of its needs."

It's also a day to share with

consumers the facts about working in an industry that is absolutely vital for their survival — a characteristic few other enterprises can claim.

This year's observance will employ certain statistics in its campaign to educate the consumer:

—Agriculture employs 22 percent of the U.S. work force; 23 million men and women hold jobs in the U.S. food system, from the farmers who produce the food, to the businesses that supply them, to the processors and retailers who help get it to the consumer.

—Agriculture is the number one inflation-fighter; Americans pay an average of 16 percent of their income on food, less than citizens of any other major industrial

nation. In addition, it is the world's most varied and highest-quality food supply.

—Agriculture is the nation's number one industry; last year it had total assets of \$1.1 trillion.

—Farmers are so efficient that they feed 226 million Americans and still have enough to feed 144 million people abroad; last year the U.S. exported about \$45 billion in farm commodities — cutting the trade deficit in half by paying for oil, automobiles, electronics, vital raw materials, and other major imports.

—According to the Agriculture Day Foundation, the day will feature hundreds of events, from special messages on the side of

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## PFA crusade takes farm message to D.C.

BY SHEILA MILLER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More and more these days, farmers are trading in their overalls and donning their Sunday best suits. Befittingly dressed, they climb inside their pickup trucks or washed and waxed sedans and leave their farms behind for a crusade to our nation's capital.

These treks to the big city are not purely social missions. Instead they are well-planned, purposeful trips to the home of the country's lawmakers.

And, once they've wound their way through the maze of concrete streets that defy even the most direction-oriented pathfinder, these transformed farmers set out in the direction of the landmark dome that marks the place where political decisions are made each day.

Realizing the consequences of

these legislative decisions (made for the most part by men and women who have seldom if ever set foot in a plowed field) have a profound impact on their agricultural existence, these missionaries of the farming world attempt to bring their message to perhaps otherwise unenlightened, indifferent legislators.

This week, more than 200 members of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association took part in such a mission. These Keystone State crusaders rallied here at the Quality Inn on Wednesday and Thursday to plan their strategies and to present the farming facts to Pennsylvania Congressmen and Senators, or legislative aides when representatives were unavailable.

The farmers didn't go into the face-to-face meetings with legislators unprepared. They were briefed on the legislative issues

affecting the farm community by PFA and American Farm Bureau Federation coaches.

"Today Washington is more a town of questions rather than answers as it was in years before," commented PFA Administrative Secretary Richard Newpher as he primed the farmers for an afternoon of persuasion. He described the nation's capital as a place where farmers used to come to seek money, but said it is now the place of the "buddy system."

Laughing, he explained that the answer Washington gives now when people come looking for money has changed to "Not me, buddy." This new federalism attitude, stated Newpher, has been

the AFBF policy for years. He noted PFA supports the Reagan administrations' program to reduce federal expenditures and its deficit budget.

Leading a group of 5 other farmers, Lancaster dairyman John Barley struck out for the Capitol to meet with Senator H. John Heinz III. Lending their support to the legislative effort were Elizabeth Collins, a mushroom grower from Chester County; Hank Swartz, a dairyman from Susquehanna County; Harold Kulp, a dairyman from Chester County; Paul McPherson, a grain and fruit grower from York County; and Gilbert

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## NMPF board approves

### self-help programs

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO  
WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Milk Producers Federation board of directors, last week, unanimously approved two self-help programs designed to increase dairy sales and stabilize market prices, said NMPF spokesperson Doni Dondero.

Both proposals, which require assessments, must meet with Congressional approval, however, and Dondero reported that U.S. dairy farmers may be affected by at least one proposal as early as October 1, 1982.

The Price Stabilization program, targeted for the fall, is a two-tier pricing system, administered by a dairy board in consultation with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. According to Dondero, the program will be based on a beginning year estimated surplus level.

For example, if the national surplus is estimated at 10 percent, farmers would receive full market price for 90 percent of their milk. The remaining 10 percent will receive a reduced price, related to the world market price.

The difference between the full market price and the world price will be collected into a fund. The money will be used to purchase the portion of milk not used in federal programs.

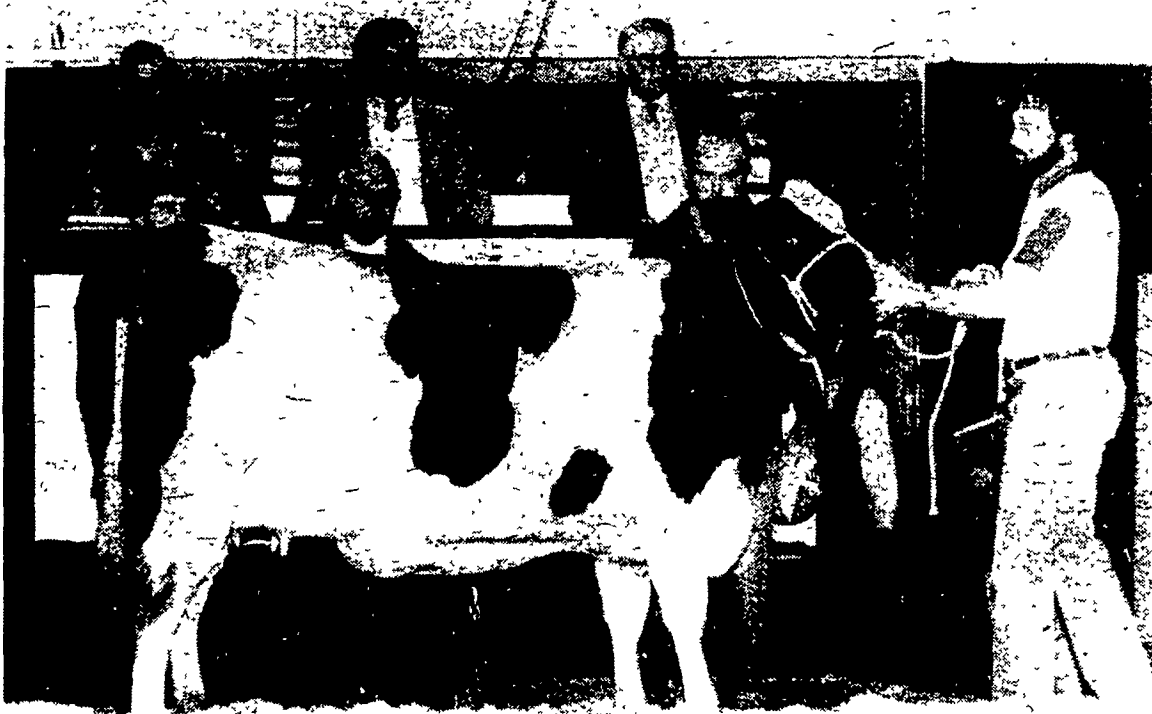
"We're trying to find some equitable way of breaking up the country," Dondero reported. She said the program will take into consideration volume and geography.

Through ownership of the excess product, the dairy board will seek to market the milk through foreign and domestic markets. The proposal requires maintaining the current support price of \$13.10 throughout the year. Beyond that, said Dondero, the support level of parity will be provided for in legislation.

The second program approved by the NMPF board is the Product Promotion proposal which requires a national referendum. Dondero said U.S. dairy farmers could vote on a five cent per hundredweight check-off, by early 1983.

Generated funds will be used to

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A fresh heifer, consigned by Leonard Stoltzfus of Douglasville, topped the Pennsylvania World Relief Heifer Sale, Thursday, with a price tag of \$2,125. The Milestone daughter was purchased by Melvin Kolb, Lancaster. Manorstead Milestone Loraine is

joined in the sale ring by, from left to right: Leon Kurtz, Wilmer Kraybill, sale manager; Leonard Stoltzfus; Harold Shellenberger, leadsman; in the auction stand E. Hershey, Dale Hoover and John Umble. See story on page A20.