



Berks Co. Society 12

Berks Farm Women 12 met at the home of Mae Fry in Shartlesville, recently. Members made bedroom slippers for the residents of the Berks Heim.

The next meeting will be a visit to the Zook Art Studio, April 12. Afterwards, the women will go to the home of Sally Steinhauer for the meeting.

Lancaster Co. Society 14

Lancaster Farm Women 14 met Wednesday, March 10 at the home of Elma Barge.

For the evening's program, Patsy Harsh demonstrated cake decorating with a Christian touch. Pauline Stoltzfus, acting as

auctioneer, sold the two decorated cakes to the highest bidders — Miriam Groff and Arlene Esbenschade.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Gladys Esbenschade on April 14.

Berks Co. Society 1

Berks Farm Society 1 met at the home of Patsy Moyer, Oley recently. Thirteen members attended.

The Society will conduct a food stand at the Stauffer sale, April 9, in Oley.

The group also plans to entertain at a bingo party at the Leader Home, Laureldale, on May 4 at 7 p.m.

Plans were completed for a bus trip on March 20 to the Sight and Sound Auditorium in Strasburg to see an Easter Show.

Berks Co. Society 20

Berks Farm Women 20 met for their monthly meeting at the home of Linda Himmelberger.

Kathy Bomberger was sworn in as a new member.

Members were entertained by Society 4 in the Hamlin Church on March 13.

The Society plans to take a bus trip to Washington D.C. on March 31. The cost is \$11 and all interested should call 885-5346.

Following the business meeting, Vera Fahnestock demonstrated quilt making.

Farm debt triples in 10 years

UNIVERSITY PARK — Farm debt has reached nearly \$200 billion, triple the \$59 billion of 10 years ago, reports Penn State's College of Agriculture.

Ironically, low net farm incomes in the last 2 years — \$20 billion in 1980 and about \$22 billion last year — along with record-high interest rates have sharply reduced the growth of farm debt. From 1977 to 1979, it rose at an average annual rate of 15.4 percent, compared with about an 11-percent rise in 1980 and 1981.

Total farm debt is so large that its significance for individual operators is difficult to translate. Debt averages about \$72,000 per farm, though the largest 10 percent of our farms carry well over half the total debt.

The high cost of credit, combined with low farm prices, has forced many producers to postpone major purchases of replacement equipment and has prevented some others from even qualifying for needed loans. Repayment delinquencies and defaults on existing loans are expected to increase the first half of this year.



Saturday, March 20

Lancaster Society 12 meets to entertain Society 4 at the Lion's Community Building in Millersville

Lancaster Society 18 meets for a tour of the Sight Saving Center

Lancaster Society 3 meets to hear a program on genealogy by Clyde Groff

Lancaster Society 14 meets for a progressive supper with husbands

Thursday, March 25

Lancaster Society 11 meets at the home of Helen Shaub for "Freedom Force" trip to Germany by Doris Brown

Lancaster Society 26 meets for a safety program at Messicks Farm Equipment

Lancaster Society 28 meets for a program by Rhoda Rutt on antiques

Saturday, March 27

Lancaster Society 4 meets for a show and tell day at the Ironville United Methodist Church

Lancaster Society 5 meets to entertain Society 30 at the Farm and Home Center, and to hear a program on candy making

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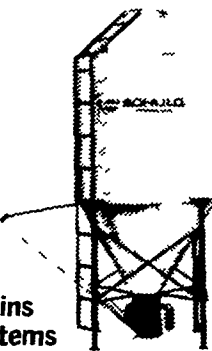
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