

Bradford-Sullivan Farmers Assn. reaches 1,000 goal

By Jane Bresee
Staff Correspondent

ULSTER — It was "One Grand" meeting last Thursday when members of the Bradford-Sullivan County Farmers Association gathered in the Monroeton Fire

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AARONSBURG — An overview of the critical dairy situation and some suggested solutions, along with the Dairy Price Support Program will be the major topics of discussion by Directors of Northeast Dairy Cooperative Federation, Inc., and its member cooperatives including Lewisburg and Cen-Pen.

The meeting will be held at the Aaronsburg Community Hall, Aaronsburg, Pa., Thursday, April 29, starting at 8 p.m. The session will be open to all dairy farmers in the area.

Speakers at the meeting will be Leon Musser, Lewisburg, Pa., NEDCO Director, and Arthur Little, NEDCO Economist.

This meeting is one of a series of about 15 that are scheduled for New York and Pennsylvania under the sponsorship of NEDCO to provide an opportunity for all milk producers to become better informed about the changing dairy industry.

Hall to celebrate the attainment of a membership of 1,000 farm families.

Carol Gore, president announced that for the first time in the history of the Bradford-Sullivan County Farmers Association 1,000 members had been obtained. He gave credit to Milford Kinsman, membership chairman who stated that many people had worked together to reach that mark.

Gore displayed the Silver Plowman trophy given to him in February when membership in the bi-county organization had 25 members over goal. The Silver Plowman award is the first such award given by the PFA.

Keith Eckel, Pennsylvania

Farmers Association president, presented two King Pin awards for signing up ten or more new members to Ralph Bouse, and Phil Tangemen. Donald Brown, who signed 30 new members, was unable to be present.

Rep. Roger Madigan, R-Bradford presented Milford Kinsman with an award for "his dedicated efforts on behalf of agriculture." The award was a framed pen used by Governor Thornburgh when signing Act 920 into law.

The idea for the law was the "epitome of grass roots policy", Madigan said. Kinsman had realized the need for manure storage structures to be exempt

from taxation, and had worked toward getting it into law through the policy development process of PFA.

Keith Eckel, featured speaker, began his address by stating that the voting delegates at the annual meeting of the PFA voted to take responsibility for telling the story of agriculture to the non-farm public so that these people understand why agriculture, the number one industry in the state, should be preserved.

The success of a free-profit agriculture economy in Pennsylvania is as dependent on the ability of the farmer to market as his ability to produce, Eckel maintained. He cited the milk referendum as a prime example of

the responsibility of farmers to market their own product.

Eckel predicted a dramatic loss of dairy farmers if the cost of milk should drop suddenly to control the surplus. PFA, he said, will work with the milk co-ops to come up with a program to maintain a good price for 90 percent of the product.

Expansion of Trade with Foreign markets is another important goal of the American Farm Bureau, Eckel continued, and spoke about the trip of Farm Bureau officials to Japan and to the Common Market Countries in Western Europe.

Eckel concluded by congratulating the farm group for the work with the Clean and Green values in Bradford County, and for their Energy Group.



Milford Kinsman, left, of Bradford County, is awarded a pen used by Governor Thornburgh when signing Act 920 into law. Kinsman originated the idea for the law exempting manure structures from taxation. Rep. Roger Madigan presented the award.



Carl Gore, left, president of the Bradford-Sullivan County Farmers Association, introduces Keith Eckel, president of PFA, to farm family members present the annual spring meeting last Thursday at the Monroeton Fire Hall.

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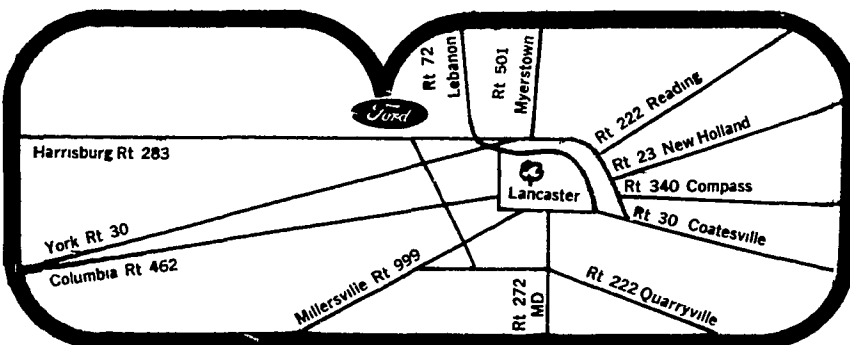
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