

Council to tackle PDA's inadequate funding

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ
CAMP HILL — "You can't take the fat off of skeletons," John Hoffman, president of the Council of Farm Organizations, said Thursday at their legislative breakfast, here.
 Hoffman was making reference to the inadequate funding the

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is currently suffering and the attempts to continue programs under such conditions.

With statistics secured earlier that week from Pa. Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell, Hoffman and State Grange Master Charles Wismer, told the audience

that although agriculture is the number one industry in the Commonwealth, it receives less than one percent of the state budget.

This year PDA received \$2 million less than what they requested, and \$500,000 less than '82.

To add to this dilemma, at least \$200,000 is needed to cover existing research projects at PDA.

Statistics show that marketing and diagnostic services are especially hard pressed for funds.

According to the Council, \$200,000 is needed to cover existing research projects.

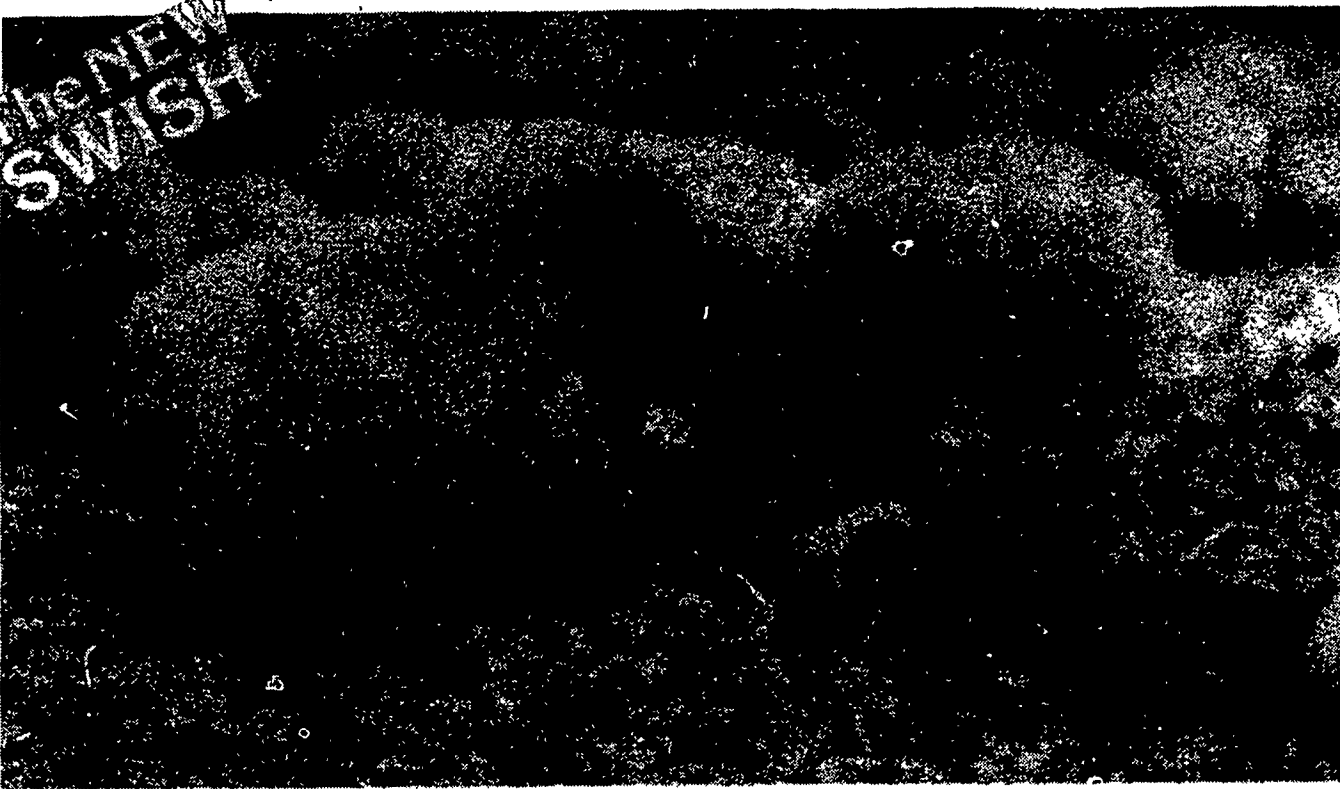
According to Linda Blake from the State Grange's information office, the Council is going to make the funding problem their top priority and has instructed their budget committee to study the situation.

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Retail food industries celebrate Ag Day

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's food retail industries should be remembered on Pennsylvania Agriculture Day, March 21.

The more than 35,000 food stores and eating and drinking places in Pennsylvania are supported by the state's agricultural industries.


Agriculture-related retail industries in Pennsylvania provide jobs for more than 273,000 Pennsylvanians, and are increasing their share of consumer food dollars.

Over the past thirty years, demand for foods that are convenient, easy to prepare and serve, as well as places to "eat-away-from-home," has increased greatly. As a result, sales at retail stores and restaurants have grown and should contribute to grow in the future.

Last year, Americans spent a total of \$329 billion of food in retail stores and restaurants. But, even with inflation, food is still a bargain, due to the productivity and dedication of our farm families and the workers in our agriculture-related industries.

The average American uses 12.2 percent of his after-tax income to buy food. That means that if one works 9 to 5, he's made enough by 2 p.m. Monday afternoon to pay his food bill for the week.

Look for Pennsylvania products labeled with the "Pennsylvania Agriculture — We're Growing Better" logo. Try them and then continue to buy them. When you do, you're helping increase sales of Pennsylvania agricultural products.



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