

Sylvia Cooper

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Arena Benefit Sale held jointly by the Pennsylvania Holstein Association and Penn State to promote funds for the new Ag Arena.

She was also a member of the Penn State Dairy Judging Team in 1981 and placed sixth overall at the Eastern States Exposition.

In addition to her knowledge of the dairy industry, Ms. Cooper has a BS degree from Slippery Rock State College in Environmental Science - Land Planning. After completing her course work there, Ms. Cooper was employed by the Environmental Education staff of the Slippery Rock Area School District. The four-member staff set up a complete environmental education program for students

from kindergarten to twelfth grade.

Ms. Cooper was chairman of curriculum development and was instrumental in developing a book of lesson plans for teaching environmental education. The book was later distributed to all of the school districts in Butler County. The staff was also responsible for building five Environmental Learning Centers complete with self guiding nature trails, bridges and outdoor amphitheaters.

Ms. Cooper was also employed as an intern by the Butler County Conservation District, and was involved in mapping prime agricultural land in Butler County.

Through all her years in the classroom, she has maintained an active interest in the home farm.

"I have bred and still own three

animals in the herd," she said, including Winding Trail Happy Dancer a 2E-92 daughter of Harborcrest Happy Crusader with a 365 day record of 27,254 pounds of milk and 921 of fat. Ms. Cooper also has a two-year-old Pete daughter of Dancer and a granddaughter out of Conductor.

"I am very proud of the improvement I've seen in our home herd in the past ten years. Our rolling herd average is now 19,794 pounds of milk and 738 pounds of fat and our BAA is 107.5," she said.

"I am very glad to be here in Lancaster," she said, "and I am particularly looking forward to meeting farmers from this area."

Giant involvement

About 4 million people are involved in U.S. farming. That's more than the combined total of American steel, oil, electronic and airlines industries.



Jim Lake of the National Conservation Tillage Information Center in Ft. Wayne, Indiana joined the second annual Tillage Conference, Tuesday. The Tillage Center offers farmers a telephone reference service, a monthly newsletter and reference material. To contact them, call (219) 422-3373.

Conservation conference

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featured a panel of three farmers and one Penn State agronomist, each experienced in conservation tillage. They are John Wiker, Jere Swarr, Kenny Bleacher and H. Grant Troop. Swarr has been involved in planting no-till for only three years, but said he is satisfied with the results. He uses one-third no-till on his 225 acres of corn.

Bleacher reported completing his second year in the Lancaster County 5-acre competition with an average yield of 188.6 bushels per acre.

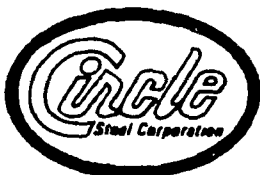
Wiker, who plants 1000 acres of corn each year in three townships in Lancaster County, said he has 17 years experience with no-till. "I was a little slow in getting into no-till because everyone said you'll

have to use more herbicides. But I've never found that to be the case," he reflected.

Troop, a Penn State agronomist, warned the audience that "You can have a serious erosion problem with just sheet erosion," — a loss of soil as thin as a sheet. "Too many farmers think that if they don't have deep gullies, then they don't have problems."

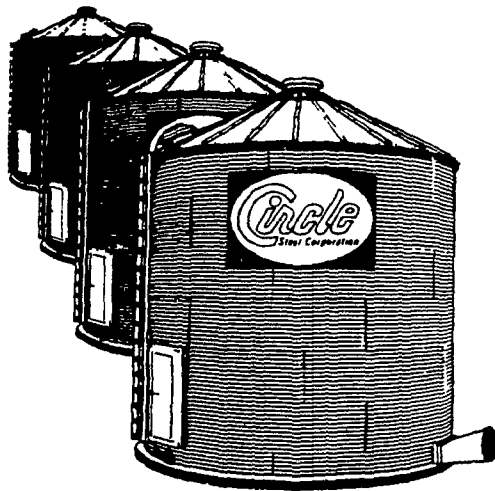
Troop finished his discussion by offering the audience his own definition of conservation: "Getting the most out of the ground within its own limits of producing."

The Tuesday program was sponsored by the Lancaster County Conservation District and the county Extension service.



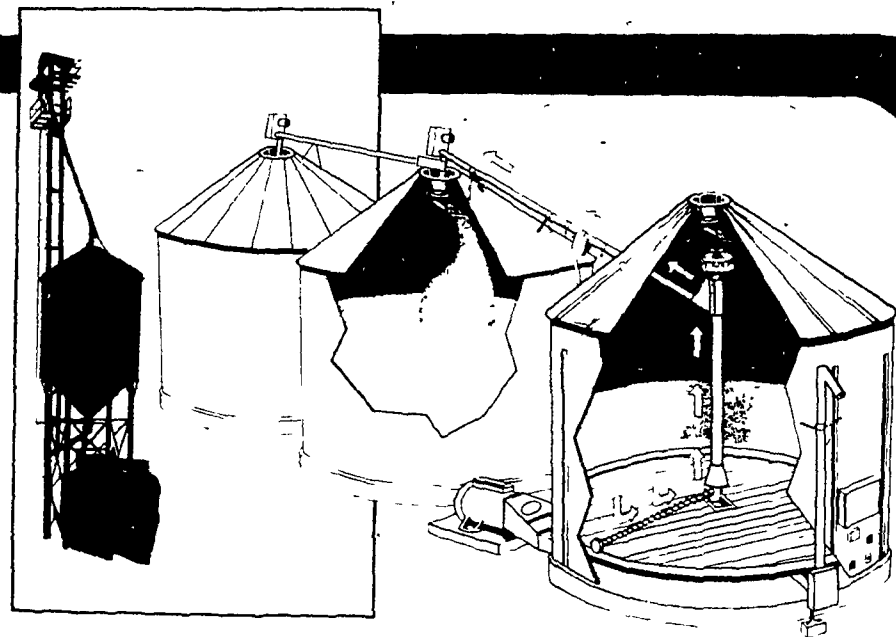
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