

## Swine producers plan July 23 picnic

LANCASTER — The Lancaster and Chester County Swine Producers Association is planning a picnic at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, July 23, at the Lampeter Fairgrounds.

A nominal 50-cent fee will be charged per person and families are asked to bring a hot and cold covered dish.

The picnic, featuring charcoal-broiled pork chops, is open to all active pork producers in the two-county area. Children twelve and under will be admitted free.

Persons interested in attending the picnic may contact directors John Henkel at 786-2562 or Kevin Rohrer at 653-8604.

Bill Fisher, president of the association, of R2 East Earl, also urges interested active swine producers to join the association, which conducts other activities throughout the year and is affiliated with the state and national producer organizations.

Other activities include the annual banquet, feeder pig shows and sales, production meat test

program, junior swine workshop and educational meetings held over the winter months. Also, there is the pork producer school for home economics teachers.

Membership is set at \$5 for three years or \$2 for one year.

Interested potential members may contact one of the officers or directors, who include:

Kevin Rohrer, secretary, of R2 Manheim; Bill Fisher, president, R2 East Earl; Chet Hughes, Livestock Extension Agent for Lancaster County; Ken Emery, R1 Glenmoore; Abe Fisher, R1 Kinzers; Abe Hess, R1 Conestoga; John Henkel, R1 Strasburg.

Also, John Groff, 1218 Lampeter Road, Lancaster; Cliff Charles, R2 Lancaster, treasurer; Mark Nestleroth, R5 Manheim; Bill Beam, R2 Elverson, vice president; Barry Haldeman, R3 Manheim; Phil Hayes, RD Oxford; Gus Birchler, R2 Conestoga, vo-ag advisor from Penn Manor High School; and Cheryl Fairburn, from the Chester County Extension Staff.



Officers and directors of the Lancaster and Chester County Swine Producers Association include, front row from left, Kevin Rohrer, secretary, R3 Manheim; Bill Fisher, president, R2 East Earl; Chet Hughes, Lancaster County Livestock Agent; back row from left, Ken Emery, R1 Glenmoore; Abe Fisher, R1 Kinzers; Abe Hess, R1 Conestoga; and John Henkel, R1 Strasburg.

## NFO launches sow sell-off

CORNING, Iowa — In a move to rescue long-term market hog prices the National Farmers Organization has announced a sow sell-off program starting immediately.

In announcing the sell-off, NFO President DeVon Woodland noted the current market price of hogs is hovering at the producer's cost of production and is expected to drop even lower during the next few months.

"We're trying to prevent a long-term drastic decline of the market hog price," Suntken said. "There is no way to stop the short-term decline but a sow sell-off now will put upward pressure on the market nine to ten months from now."

"Our goal is to sell off 8 percent of the current sow population of about 920,000 head," Suntken explained, "reducing the population to approximately the

1982 level. That would reduce the pig crop by about 6.7 million head and result in about 1.47 billion less pounds of pork reaching the market in 1984 (live weight at 220 pounds average)."

He said producers can have some short-term effect by selling their hogs at lighter weights. Taking just ten pounds off each animal would result in taking 3 million pounds of pork off the national market each day and that alone would affect the short-term market price, he said.

"The producer must take this own action to improve his situation," Suntken said. "All we can do at NFO is provide the momentum. The March report has kicked the devil out of the market price and someone has to help the producers recover over the next few months. Our program can do that."

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