

Hunterdon farm/business picnic on July 26

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — "This get-together of business and professional men of the county and members of the Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture is being held to help promote a spirit of goodwill and fellowship among members of the two groups," so stated the letter of invitation to the first Farmers' and Businessmen's Picnic 47 years ago. It was 1936 and the host farm was to be the dairy, poultry and potato farm of the late Clifford E. Snyder, near Pittstown.

Food was to be prepared and served by the ladies of the Quakertown Church. And the price of a ticket was 70 cents or \$1.40 for farmer and his businessman guest.

This event has become an annual activity of the County Board of Agriculture, and the format hasn't really changed that much. It's still held on a farm in the county, a progressive, well-managed operation. Yes, occasionally one of the county's businesses or institutions would host the affair, but most generally it was held on a top farm.

Second year, location was the Charles Cane Poultry Breeding Farm, Rosemont; third year, Blossom Hill Farm, Lebanon; fourth year, Robert Crane's farm near Pittstown, a poultry, potato and "vegetables for canning" operation.

The 1983 Picnic

Yes, the price has changed, and so, too, the locations. This year host farm will be Matthew Gordeuk's dairy farm, just south of Baptistown on Route 519. Serving the meal will be Gene Maddalena's

Catering Service. Speaker featured on the program is the Rev. John Infanger, pastor of the New Providence Methodist Church and a favorite in this area.

"The price will be right," says picnic chairman, August Knispel. Not 70 cents but \$7.50 each. "And in this day and age, it is a bargain!"

Date is Tuesday, July 26, tours of the farm are set for 5:30 to 7 p.m. A picnic supper of barbecue chicken, sweet corn, salads, and trimmings,

topped by Maddalena cheese cake and fresh fruit, will be served at 7 p.m.

A brief program follows with greetings from host farmer Matt Gordeuk, door prizes, and the guest speaker. Infanger's topic will be "The Joy of Living," and his intention will be to make you laugh, think, and look up.

Arrive Early

Guests are urged to arrive early. Committee member, Orville Barrick, has arranged to have

tractors and wagons on hand to transport all who wish to see the farm's 400 acres. Corn, oats, wheat, soy beans and hay crops are grown on this farm. There are over 100 dairy cows plus youngstock. There will be tours of buildings; milking will be still underway at 5:30.

This is an excellent opportunity to see a well-managed, progressive dairy farm, meet a prominent dairy farm family. Gordeuk is

active in many agricultural organizations, as well as, in his community, service on the Delaware Valley High School board for many years.

Tickets may be purchased in the Extension Service Office. Checks should be made out to the Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture and can be sent to the board, R.D. 6, Box 48, Flemington, 08822.

Ticket sale deadline is Tuesday, July 19.

Md. opens produce market line

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Want the latest word on what Maryland produce is coming on to the market and how the price and supply situation looks?

If you do, information is just a telephone call away on Friday afternoons at 4 p.m. By calling (301) 841-5763 at anytime day or night from Friday through Monday afternoon, you'll be hooked up with a three minute "MDA Market Line" report by Jack Frey of the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Marketing Services Section who will fill you in on what fresh fruits and vegetables are coming to market at Pick-your-own farms, farmer's roadside stands and the hundreds of stores served by the Maryland Wholesale Food Center at Jessup.

Jack's report is especially good this year due to the fact that strange Spring weather — rains

and below normal temperatures — delayed some crops while not affective others.

Those who plan to pick their own or buy direct from growers need timely information before setting out to buy. They can also get a handle on what fruits and vegetables are in ample supply so they can make budget stretching shopping lists.

It's no secret that some items in the fruits and vegetable line are in very short supply due to weather conditions throughout the country and therefore prices are high. Jack's report can help you plan ahead and swoop on the best buys.

An example of knowing when

local produce is ready for market would be peaches this year in Maryland. Nationally, peach production is going to be down because of weather. But here in Maryland it now appears we will


have a slightly larger crop than usual. Jack Frey will tell you when the local peaches are ready just as soon as the growers tell him so you'll be able to shop for quality and price at the head of the line.

Crops Day on Sept. 27


UNIVERSITY PARK — September 27 is the date for Penn State's Annual Crops Day to be held at the Rock Springs Agronomy Research Farm, nine miles southwest of State College on Route 45 West. Featured will be discussions on corn and soybean research and management practices.

Topics will include variety development and selection, fertilization, pest control, and related subjects. There will be limited discussion on forages and small grains.

The contact person is Elwood Hatley, 106 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA. 16802, telephone 814-865-2543.



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