

Disaster loans await harvest

BAIR — Area farmers hoping for an early announcement on the availability of low-interest disaster emergency loans will just have to keep sitting in suspense for a while longer, according to a USDA representative who addressed the national plowing contest banquet.

Frank W. Naylor, un-

dersecretary of agriculture for small community and rural development, told national plowmen meeting at the York 4-H Center that emergency loan announcements are not likely before a better overall picture of the harvest becomes available.

Later in the fall, September or

October, is probably the earliest farmers can expect some ruling on disaster loan availability.

However, if several counties in southeastern Pennsylvania are declared ag disaster areas, due to severe drought conditions, the budget for such low-interest loans is unlimited, he added.

The undersecretary also told plowmen that Farmers Home Administration will not abandon farmers through the continuing agriculture money crunch. Although some 50,000 to 100,000 farmers across the country are in "very serious trouble," Naylor promised the FmHA will "see through those with any reasonable chance to make it."

Slowing inflation has undergirded the American dollar on the world money market, but at the same time, been the prime cause of decreasing exports of agriculture commodities.

According to Naylor, 11 million additional acres have gone into production every year for the past decade, and at least 30 to 40 per-



Extension Director Marion Deppen, left, presents commemorative clock to Frank Naylor, Undersecretary of Agriculture.

cent of the burgeoning harvests must be sold overseas, to avoid market-depressing domestic surpluses.

But, because of the increasing strength of the dollar, and continuing world economic stagnation, U.S. farm exports have dropped from a former high of \$40 billion to below \$35 billion last year.

Warning that recent congressional redistricting has

further weakened rural influence among Washington lawmakers, Naylor said that fewer than 10 Congressmen now represent districts with more than 25 percent rural populations.

"So there's a hue and cry from the brethren to make changes in programs they don't understand," said Naylor, pointing out the current dairy situation a prime example of the understanding gap.

—J.B.

Plenty of food at Ag Progress

AG PROGRESS — If you get hungry while wandering around the many activities at Penn State's Ag Progress Days, don't worry — there will be quite a variety of foods to choose from.

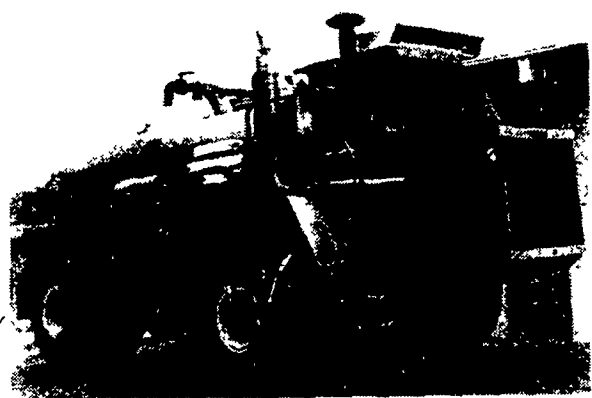
Seventeen food vendors will offer a wide selection of Pennsylvania-made foods throughout the event, says Russell C. Seward, Centre County Extension director and chairman of the local arrangements committee. Many groups be on hand to offer their specialties for a very reasonable price.

On the ice cream front, maple

sundaes will be available from the Wayne County chapter of the Pennsylvania Maple Producers, and the Pennsylvania Beekeepers Association will have honey-sweetened ice cream sundaes.

For the first time this year, Penn State mushrooms will be available at Ag Progress Days. The Lions Club of State College will offer breaded mushrooms with cheese sauce available. The group will also be passing out mushroom recipes and nutrition information. Another of the three Lions Club food booths will utilize a steam engine to produce heat for their bean soup.

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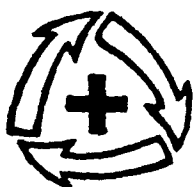
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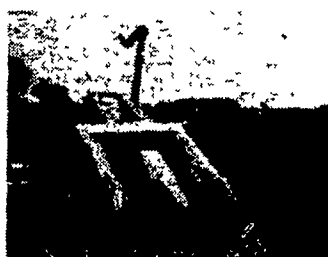
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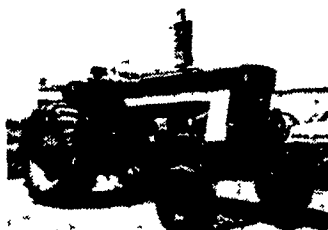
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