

## Berks ag day

(Continued from Page A25)

team. From the start, Jack Gounder, MC, pointed out the "one-hand" and "two-hand" methods for the crowd, and also pointed out an unsuccessful "two-finger" method. The crowd loved it and it was soon obvious that Commissioner Vernon Shaffer "had the knack" as he had the Guernsey's milk spurting into the bucket.

"We got it locked up", Shaffer announced as he held up his team's jug which was almost one-fourth filled and immediately declared the winner.

Not to be overshadowed by the victors, Jim Snively from the Boyertown Radio station WBYO, who was on the losing team milking the Jersey declared, "My theory is Jerseys give quality, not quantity". After the contest, the cows remained in place and everyone was invited to go up to them and meet them. They were a favorite with the many children and many seemed to appreciate their friendliness and quiet manner.

More laughs were in store when the Eastern Pennsylvania Pork Producers sponsored the "Pin the Diaper on the Pig Contest". Teams for this event included the outspoken Jack Gounder, WEEU; County Commissioner Donald Bagenstose; William Hughes, American Bank; Bill Eads, Germantown Savings; Herbert Wetzel, Berks County Extension Agent; Dwayne Pysner, ASCS; and Tony Grumm, Chamber of Commerce. As the pigs squealed when cornered and diapered, so did the audience as time and time again the small porkers managed to slip their diapers and run away. With a final wrestling with his pig in the shavings, Gounder managed to hold it for his team to make a last attempt at securing the diaper to win the contest.

Farmers were delighted as their ag promotion kept attracting more attention throughout the afternoon. For the Ice Cream Eating Contest, 15 participants were asked for and in addition to County Commissioner Donald Bagenstose in the running there were youth and adults from the public to try to beat him. Participants from the audience with big appetites were

again sought for the Apple Dumping with Milk Eating Contest sponsored by the Berks County Fruit Growers, Ontelaunee Orchards, and the Berks County Junior Holstein Club.

There were plenty of chances throughout the day for the urban individuals to test their ag I.Q.'s and skills. The other contests included: Water Conservation Race, sponsored by the Berks County ASCS where participants had to run along a path with a cup of water balanced on their head, an Agricultural products I.Q. Contest, sponsored by the Berks County Farm Women, and the Berks County Cattlemens Association, the Eastern Pork Producers, and the Berks County Sheep and Wool Growers sponsored the Guess the Weights Contest on their respective animals.

Berks County farmers can be applauded for this major promotional effort on their part. It was obvious that the city crowd loved the displays and events and the city officers appreciated the cleanliness of all the animals and the attractiveness of the displays. It was noted that this was the biggest crowd to date for the annual Ag Day which was moved up to August-September after previously being held in November.

The main objective for the Ag Day, in addition to promoting and educating, was to encourage city friends to take advantage of opportunities to know more about their food supply and to encourage them to take part in the annual Farm-City Week to be celebrated November 18 to 24.

Ag Day was sponsored by the entire Berks County Agricultural Community. Those directly contributing were Berks County Dairy Farmers, ice cream and milkshakes; Berks County Holstein Club; John Stump, Holstein cow; Carl Hollenbach, Guernsey cow; David Phillips, Jersey cow; Berks County 4-H clubs, Berks County Fruit Growers, Ontelaunee Orchards, Eastern Pa. Pork Producers, Berks County Society of Farm Women, Berks County Cattlemen's Association, The Equine Council, free horse rides; Berks County Sheep and Wool Growers, and Pennsylvania Farmers Association.

## Sign of times

(Continued from Page A1)

Pennsylvania State Grange for Tuesday, the poultrymen will call for a freeze on the expansion of foreign and corporate investment. They also want the Farmers Home Administration to provide loans at lower interest rates for family farm operations who limit their operations to 200,000 or fewer birds.

Attending Tuesday's session will be State Ag Sec. Penrose Hallowell, state legislators, and representatives of U.S. Congressmen and Senators.

Dairyman George Tubies, of Littlestown, for the second consecutive year is appealing his tax assessment, which doubled his tax bill from \$740 to \$1400 in 1982.

"I didn't pay the tax bill last

year and now I have another one. Now, they're threatening to sell me out.

"I'm in the hole for \$250,000 and for three out of the last four years my indebtedness has grown by \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year.

"This year, I have short corn plants, little ears and no kernels in them.

And, it's another \$5,000 or \$6,000 going to milk deductions.


"I'll be borrowing again to buy grain and hay if I want any milk from the cows.

"At last year's hearing, all I got was a lot of deaf ears. This year, they're giving me 20 minutes instead of 10".


Tubies said he has about a dozen farmers to go along to the hearing.



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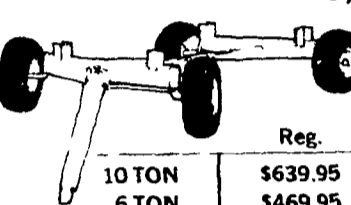


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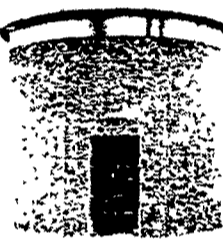


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