

Clubs Make Food Baskets

ELVERSON — In an effort to demonstrate the true meaning of Christmas, 13 Twin Valley clubs and classes joined resources to make Christmas food baskets for families in the Twin Valley District. A total of 31 baskets were put together, with money donated by the clubs, classes and canned goods donated by individual students.

Groups which contributed were: German Club, Future Homemakers of America, Audio-visual club, Varsity Club, Future

Business Leaders of America, Choirs, Yearbook, Class of 1984, Class of 1985, Class of 1987, and Future Farmers of America.

Chris Cylcewski, chairman of the FFA Building Our American Communities committee, took charge of the combined effort. The Steeple of People group distributed the baskets in the community.

As one club advisor stated, "All year we sell things in the community, this is our opportunity to show our appreciation and do something for the community."

Pa. crop production cited

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's 1983 production of wheat, barley and rye was more than production in 1982, but production of oats declined, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Production of winter wheat was 8,580,000 bushels, five percent above 1982. The 220,000 acres harvested was four percent below last year. Yield per harvested acre was 39 bushels, three bushels above 1982. Barley production was 3,850,000 bushels, three percent above a year ago. Acreage harvested was 70,000 with an average yield of 55 bushels per acre.

Rye production was 578,000 bushels, 42 percent above last year. Acreage harvested was 17,000 with an average yield of 34 bushels per acre. Oats production was 16,200,000, 18 percent below last year. acreage harvested was 300,000 with an average yield per acre of 54 bushels.

Pennsylvania farmers seeded 230,000 acres of winter wheat in the fall of 1983 for the 1984 crop, about the same as last year. Rye seedings for all purposes amounted to 80,000 acres in the fall of 1983, 20,000 acres more than last

year.

National production of winter wheat, barley and oats in 1983 declined, while rye was above 1982 production levels. Production of winter wheat totaled 1.99 billion bushels, six percent below 1982. Barley production was estimated at 519 million bushels, one percent below the record high 522 million bushels produced in 1982.

United States oats production was 477 million bushels, 23 percent than the 1982 crop. Total rye production at 28.2 million bushels is 34 percent above 1982 production.

Farmers in the United States seeded 64.9 million acres of winter wheat in the fall of 1983 for the 1984 crop, four percent above last

Smoketown Dairy Sales

(Continued from Page B32)

"Everything's fine, I just got done delivering a calf."

In 1972, Fritz's career took an important turn with a call from friend John Peila. Peila had found a purebred herd available for dispersal in Vermont if Gordon would like to have a look.

Fritz sums it up. "So I bought 'em, brought 'em home, put up a big tent, and we had a sale. And except for all the fuses we blew trying to tie into the house's electricity, it was a big success, too."

The following year Fritz's neighbors Ben and Margaret Deverter solved his cattle housing problems by presenting him with their garage which was scheduled

year's seedings. Rye acres seeded across the nation totaled 2.98 million, up eight percent from 1982.

to be torn down. The hitch? Only one. Move it, and it's yours.

Fritz soon had an appropriate foundation built, and through the ingenuity of John and Mose Byler and John Petersheim, the entire garage was transported intact on steel rollers to its new home next door.

With Fritz's two sons Ron and Gordie putting their shoulders into the business, Smoketown Quality Dairy Sales Co., was ready to sell cattle by December, 1973.

During the early days, Fritz owned all of the livestock offered at his sales, but as word spread of his success, farmers began to press Gordon to sell on consignment as well.

During those first eight years, Fritz estimates that he owned about 80% of the cattle he sold, a figure that began changing slowly at first, and then quite dramatically during 1982.

With the dairy market floundering last summer, Fritz decided to change his strategy. During the last third of 1982 over 90% of his cattle were sold on consignment basis with seven of Fritz's last 10 sales representing herd dispersals, largely from the New England states.

And if sales attendance and receipts are measures of success, then the approach seems to be working. Despite competition from four other area sales on December 9, for example, Smoketown posted a record attendance of 119 registered bidders who paid an average of \$1135.00 for Fritz's herd of 34 cows, heifers, and calves.

But the cattle business can hardly be termed a rose garden with Gordon and Helen yoked to an enterprise that commands as much as 15 hours of each day. And with Fritz's 82-year-old father, John, still active in the business and offering his own cows at Gordon's last two sales, retirement and a life of leisure can hardly be termed a Fritz tradition.

Watching Gordon in action, it's apparent that the man could probably sell most anything. Cattle? Of course. Snowmobiles in Jamaica? No doubt.


If he had it to do over again would he opt for a repeat performance?

"Absolutely. And I'd make room for more, too!"

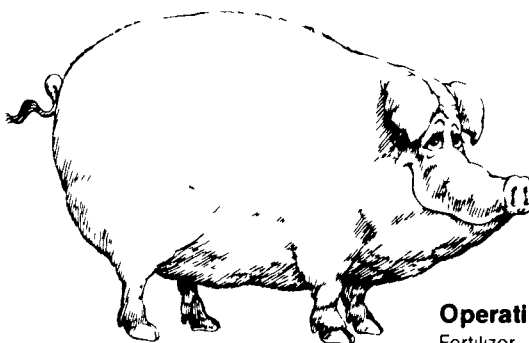
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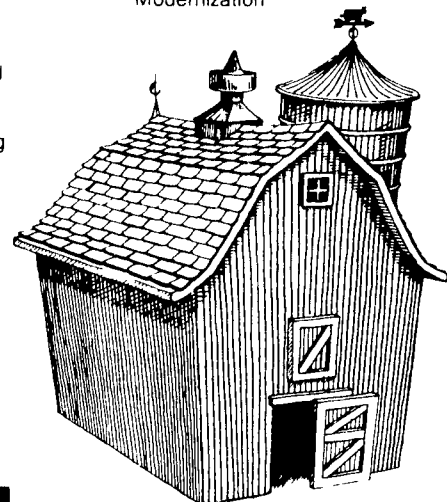


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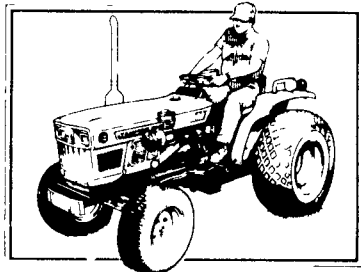
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