

# Cooperative directors graduate

UNIVERSITY PARK — Twenty-eight directors from 18 cooperatives around the state of Pennsylvania, as well as New York and New Jersey, graduated from the first Pennsylvania Cooperative Director School in January at Penn State.

"Deciding to come to this Cooperative Director School will be one of those decisions that will benefit you for many years," said

Samuel H. Smith, dean of the College of Agriculture at Penn State, at the graduation ceremony held at the Nittany Lion Inn. "Committing five days of your valuable time to this probably seemed like a rather large commitment. But, this was your chance to learn some techniques that will help you as directors and managers improve profitability and improve the quality of farm and rural life in Pennsylvania."

in keeping Pennsylvania at the forefront of agricultural marketing and production activities in the United States. Leaders of these businesses must recognize their responsibilities and opportunities as directors in maintaining sound organizations if Pennsylvania is to continue as a leading agricultural state."

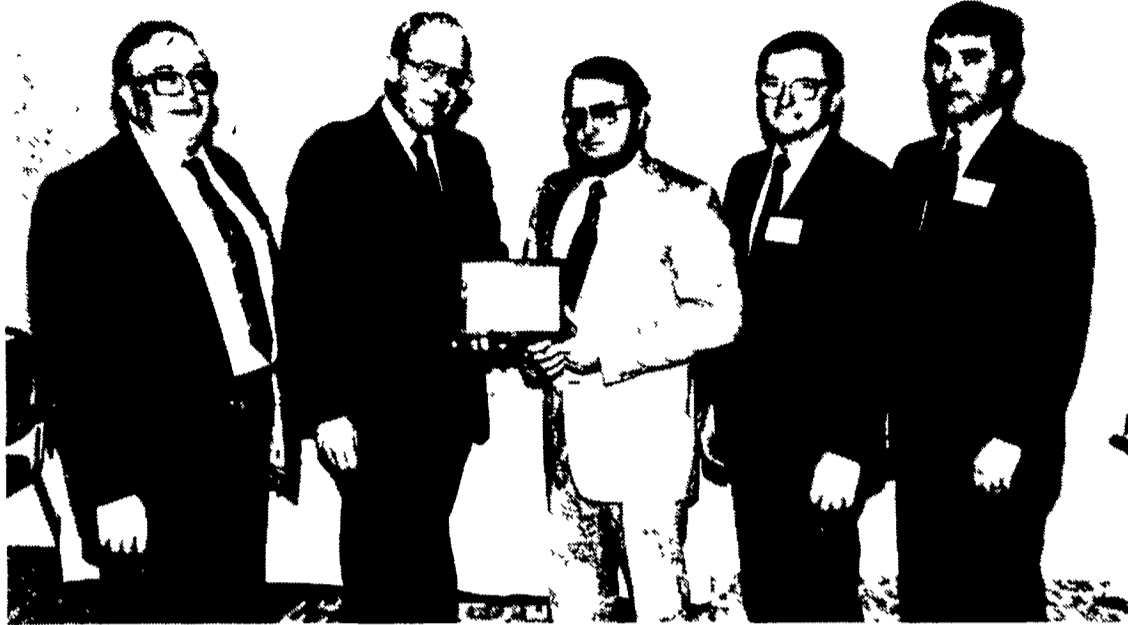
The school was sponsored by the College of Agriculture at Penn State, and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture with the cooperation of the Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives (PAFC).

Directors are elected to provide leadership to their cooperative. "Many times during your term of office you are faced with a dual challenge," said Smith. "First you were elected to represent the membership of the cooperative. Second, you are changed by law with the duty to conduct business reasonably. I hope this school has helped you meet today's increasingly complex business challenges."

Howard Thoele, Associate Dean, represented the College of Agriculture in presenting plaques to each director confirming his successful completion of the training. Chester Heim, Deputy State Secretary of Agriculture, speaking for Secretary Hallowell, said, "Cooperatives play a key role

It was taught by a faculty of eight people from cooperatives and the College of Agriculture. Subject matter was covered in two phases over a five-day period in December and January including 12 major topics, Phase I emphasized the area of "The Director & The Board". Phase II emphasized "Board/Management Relationships" and included nine managers of sponsoring cooperatives.

The Cooperative Director School will be held annually. The topics and sessions will be geared to the needs of directors who have been newly elected to their boards and to those who have served over a period of years. There are over 1,000 directors serving on boards of Pennsylvania's cooperatives eligible to benefit from this unique learning experience



From left to right are Deputy State Secretary of Agriculture, Chester Heim; Penn State's Associate Dean of Agriculture, Howard Thoele; Ronald C. Allison and Ralph H. McGregor, Farm Credit Associations of York directors; and Robert E. Vinson, General Manager of Farm Credit Associations of York.

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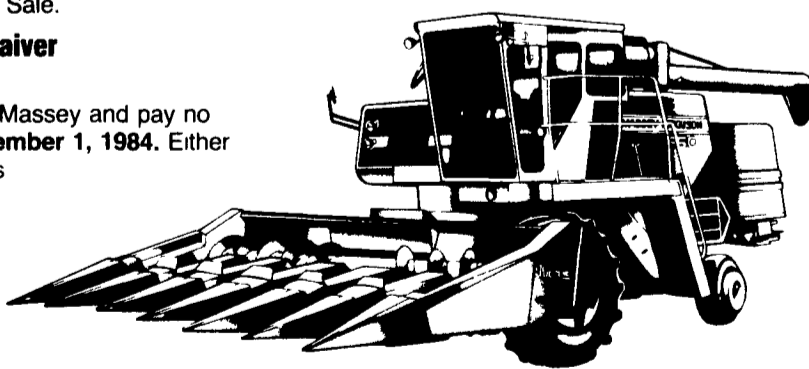
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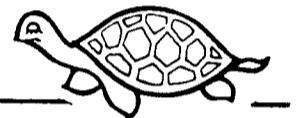
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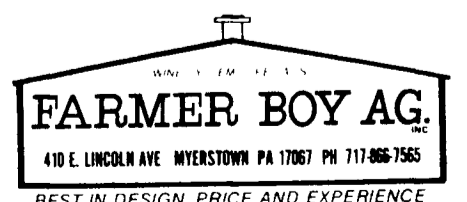
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