

Ladies have their day out

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS

Reading/Berks County Farmers Association ladies treated themselves to lunch and a full educational program at their

annual "Ladies Day Out" meeting on Wednesday, March 21, at the Holiday Inn, Reading. Enlightening talks were given by Michael Feeney, Berks County

Coroner, Carolyn Holleran, Ag in the Classroom representative, Tammy Schlappich, youth conference representative, and Lillian Harnish, chairman of the women's committee.

Because of a need to learn about local government, the county coroner, Michael Feeney, was hosted to present the programs of his office. Feeney cited many cases as examples of the many ways investigations and existing rules can be improved. He stated that his office is there for the purpose of "checks and balances" on investigations of deaths. "We don't treat any case lightly," he told the women.

A big advocate of seat belts, Feeney said that, "seat belts save lives, there's no question about it." He told everyone that the odds are 140 to one that a death will occur if seat belts are not used. "That's better odds than the lottery," he said.

He also advocated smoke detectors, especially in the older farm homes. "After the fact, it's too late," he said. "If you don't have a smoke detector, buy one. If you don't have a game plan to escape your house in case of fire, make one," Feeney advised.

Feeney discussed some of the problems of his job and spoke of the changes being made. Admitting that he has come under much criticism from police forces and ambulance crews because of his views, Feeney said, "minutes save lives." Ambulances have often been detained at the scene of an accident unnecessarily by police or crews taking vital signs that they could take enroute. He also cited problems in improper responses, territorialization by ambulances, travel time involved



Michael Feeney, Berks County coroner, spoke to the Berks women about his views for improvements in ambulance services and investigations of deaths.

in transporting victims to hospitals other than the closest one.

Carolyn Holleran, Berks County Intermediate Unit, spoke on the "Ag in the Classroom" programs. "Agribusiness is our biggest industry," she stated. The program is geared to teach the teachers to present agricultural concepts and

how they relate to the economic system in the classrooms. Holleran and Karen Freeman, extension service, have been working on this program for the past year with the county teachers and are pleased with the response. More farms for

(Turn to Page B26)



The women's committee formed their own country band to entertain the women.

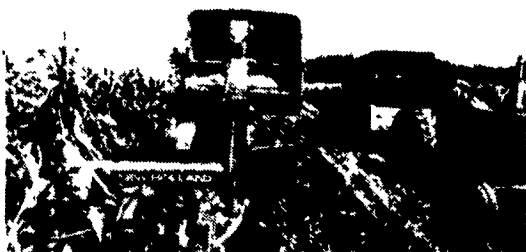


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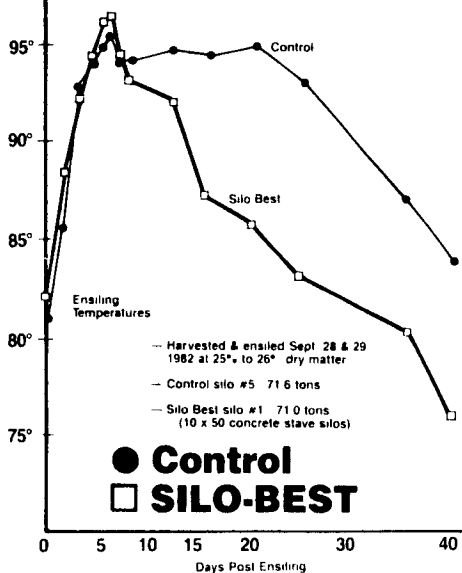
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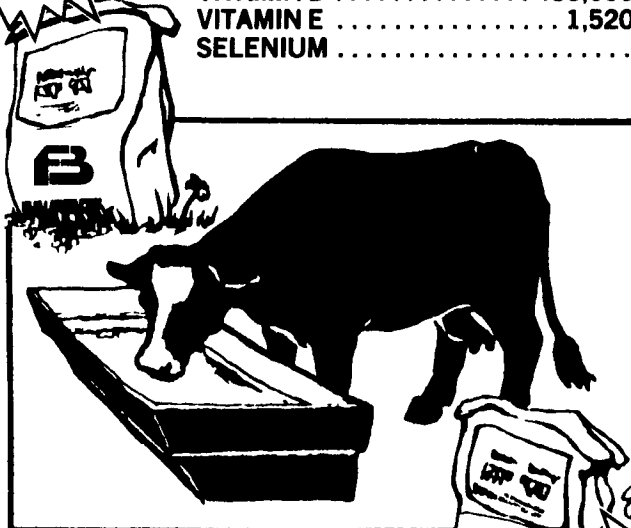


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