

Lancaster's Ladies Day Out features Ag in the Classroom

BY SALLY BAIR

Staff Correspondent

EPHRATA — The Women's Committee of the Lancaster County Farmers Association began their Ladies Day Out last Thursday with a tour of four farm homes in the Ephrata area and concluded with fashions from an Ephrata area shop. In between, they offered the 275 women attending a challenge to participate in the Ag in the Classroom project which will be offered as a pilot program in the Penn Manor School District as a prelude to a county-wide program.

Caroline Holleran, an economics teacher with the Berks Intermediate Unit, told the women of the programs' success in Berks County, and said the merits of the program are in the multiplier effect.

"If there is one teacher who is enthusiastic about agriculture, there will be 35 children who are enthusiastic," Holleran said. This number increases dramatically if the teacher is in secondary schools.

Holleran said, "You've got a lot to teach the rest of your community. Agriculture must tell non-agriculture its story. Appreciation for your industry will be built nationwide," through these efforts.

Involved with the program in Berks County since its inception, she is enthusiastic about its reception by teachers and the community.

"There will be a terrific impact over the next year or two," she remarked.

Through an effort by the Berks County Chamber of Commerce and its agri-business committee, this committee produced a program to educate teachers, both on a small scale and during a workshop for credit. They have involved agri-businessmen, farmers, FFA students and 4-H'ers in the teaching of the information.

Saying that Ag in the Classroom is a priority with Agriculture Secretary John Block, Holleran said the program has been a true partnership program with the farm community offering talent and expertise, farm wives developing brochures and tours and agri-business making contributions to help defray costs of materials.

Materials are developed and made available so that teachers can begin using them as soon as



Caroline Holleran, Berks Intermediate Unit, urged the women to work with the Ag in the Classroom project as a means of telling the agricultural story to teachers who can use the information in teaching every day. She spoke about the successes already enjoyed by the Berks County program.

they leave the workshop.

"The school districts have been overwhelmingly pleased," Holleran said. One of the specific aides offered is an agricultural vocabulary list so that one ag word can be included each week with other lists. Holleran added, "Agricultural concepts can be taught daily in areas of nutrition and American history. Food and agriculture are part of everyday teaching."

She said that part of the program teaches conservation and preservation of what we have. "We bring into play some very important values."

Jane Eshleman, chairman of Lancaster County's Ag in the Classroom project, urged the local women to sign up as contact persons for their local school districts as the program expands.

Shirley Garner, representative to the state women's committee, asked for more women willing to work with fire and emergency crews on the topic of farm safety.

She also announced that the regional Ladies Day Out will be held July 10 at Donegal Mills Plantation, and the topic will be "Where's the Beef?"

Earlier in the day the ladies toured several farm homes. Earl and Grace Martin's home on Royer Road, included a wide variety of handcrafted items which Grace enjoys making. The Martins have beef cattle and raise rye, corn and tobacco.

At Galen and Carolyn Crouse's dairy farm, near Schoeneck, the women were treated to a milk drink distributed by Lancaster County's Dairy Princess Boni Gochenaur and to stenciling demonstration by Wanda Gaston. In Carolyn's music room, a trio performed music for the tour-goers.

Terry and Sandy Scheetz's farm home is on the outskirts of the village of Stevens, and featured original corner cupboards, doors, woodwork and floors. The "country" look throughout the home was welcoming, as was the fire in the walk-in fireplace in the kitchen. The Scheetz's have a hog farm.

Mary Schantz's home has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and was built in 1803. A recently restored hearth room is believed to have been part of the original home, built previous to that. Original woodwork, corner cupboards, fireplaces and colors were a few of the features of the home. The farm is a working dairy farm.

Red Rose Baby Beef Club

The Red Rose 4-H Baby Beef Club met at the home of Abe Flory on May 2. The meeting began with three demonstrations of fitting - how to fit the legs of a steer, how to do a tail and how to do the tail head and poles.

The next meeting will be on June 6 at West Lampeter Fairgrounds.



Carolyn Crouse and Dairy Princess Boni Gochenaur work together in distributing a delicious milk punch to the many visitors on the tour.

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