

American National CowBelles hold meeting

SYRACUSE — New York Commission of Agriculture Joseph Gerace called upon beef cattlemen from New York, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan to be "missionaries for agriculture."

Speaking at the Region I meeting of the American National CowBelles May 3 at Syracuse Gerace warned, "there is a time bomb ticking in rural America." Quoting from the March Kiplinger newsletter, he continued, "if commercial farmers nationwide are forced out of business there could be a devastating effect on the

rural economy. He noted the "ripple effect" of the farm economy, saying "economists tell us each agricultural dollar is rolled over three times."

He told of the effects of the \$1 per hundredweight dairy assessment which amounts to \$6,000 to \$12,000 per dairy farmer. "In Franklin County, dairy farmers are sending \$2½ million to Washington that could have been spent in Franklin County," he said.

"What will happen to our nation if the farmers of this country give up?" Gerace asked.

He called on the women to talk to non-farm groups and to tell of the need to support agriculture "If we don't work together we could have a vast wasteland in this country," the Commissioner warned. He added, "if we don't get a decent 1985 Farm Bill these fears could become a reality." He said compromise will be needed among farm groups as well as support of the non-farm population.

He said "agriculture is the number one industry in New York State with one out of every six persons either directly or in-

directly dependent on agriculture for his paycheck."

As he emphasized the variety and scope of New York agriculture he said New York farmers sent cheese to Wisconsin, wine to California, horses to Kentucky and maple syrup to Vermont. He said beef cattle is a growing enterprise in the state with the number of beef replacements up 12 percent and emphasized the potential for greater growth.

Frances Owen of Lubbock, Tex., president-elect of the American

National CowBelles called for an increase in membership and in member involvement. She said the CowBelles' "Beef for Father's Day" promotion began when one woman in Idaho took a beef roast to the governor for a Father's Day gift. The promotion will be 30 years old in 1985. She also reported on the Beef Cook-Off which receives national media attention and suggested the time might be right to add another promotional program.

Peter Comerford, livestock specialist with the State Department of Agriculture and Markets discussed beef cattle production in the state, noting the home freezer trade was a major marketing alternative. He called for production of quality lean red meat that grades choice but warned, "you can't satisfy all the consumers' demands." He cited the need to get quality bulls into good commercial herds.

Comerford called on the beef cattlemen to "blow your own trumpet, educate the consumers about your product, and take pride in what you do."

Terry Dockerty of Cornell University gave a demonstration on "Know Your Cuts of Beef."

Butler County hosts Livestock Field Day

BY BARBARA RADER

Staff Correspondent

SAXONBURG — More than 100 4-H and FFA members from Washington, Lawrence, Venango, Clarion and Butler Counties, attended the Butler County Livestock Field Day on April 28. Sponsored by the Butler County 4-H and FFA Livestock Club, the event was held at Knoch High School, in Saxonburg.

Morning activities included a livestock judging contest, with retired Mercer County vocational agriculture instructor, Lee Mooney, serving as judge.

High individual senior members were Jeff Gardner, Washington County, beef; Joel Mariacher, Lawrence County, swine; and Denny Hall, Lawrence County, sheep. Jeff Gardner was also named overall senior division winner.

Junior overall winner was Ashley Shook, who also took first place in the swine division. Other junior winners were Roy Longdon, Butler County, sheep; and Frank Cranbury, Butler County, beef.

The high scoring team in the senior division was entered by

Washington County. Members include Becky Black, Eric Buckingham, Mike Rohaley and Joe Cole.

Bridget and Kelly Wingard, Darcy Best and Jerry Cotton were members of the winning junior team from Clarion County.

Various youth educational programs were scheduled throughout the day, with a meat cutting demonstration by Thoma's Market of Saxonburg, highlighting the afternoon's events.

Identification of a variety of feeds and livestock equipment was also scheduled.

The local livestock club held its business meeting, with guests, Mr and Mrs. Dale Fleming outlining the new awards program for exhibitors at the Butler County Fair. Serving as the Fair's secretary, Mr. Fleming explained that this year's awards theme will be "Pride in Pennsylvania".

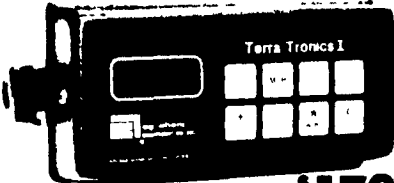
Ivan Longdon served as Field Day chairman.

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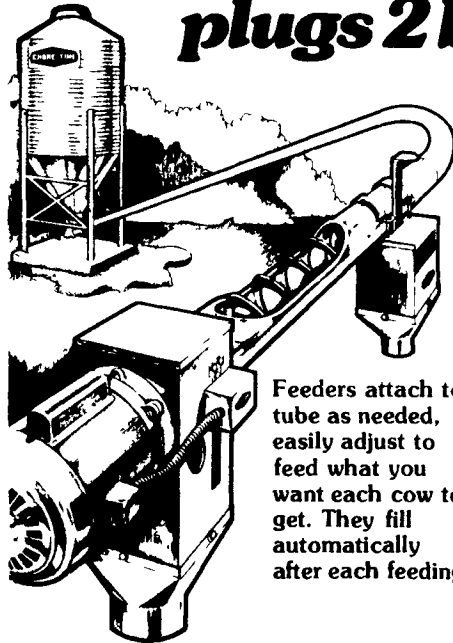
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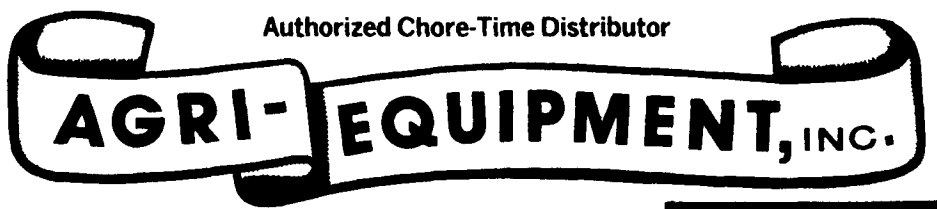
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