

# York farm tour

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layers kept for the market following. While the continuing Avian Flu quarantine prohibits visitors from viewing the flock, Markey hopes to have newly-hatched baby chicks on display.

Their son Ron and his wife Carolyn are in partnership with Ken and Eleanor in the family farm and market business. The couple's three daughters, all past Pennsylvania Apple Queens, will be on hand to help answer questions and explain the fruit production industry.

A herd of Herefords graze in the pasture where visitors enter the final stop on the tour, the Miller Plant Farm.

Owned by John Miller and his son Dave, this wholesale and retail operation saw its first greenhouse go up in 1929. While the farm, originally purchased by the family in 1915, once maintained dairy

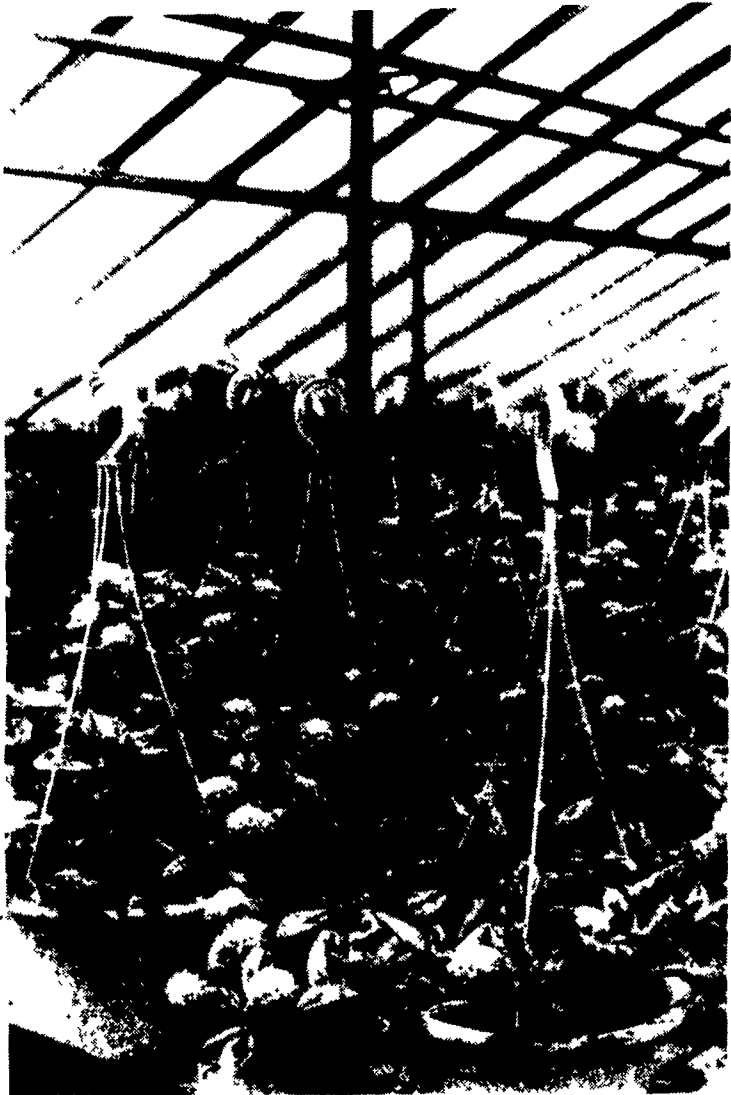
cows, a meat business and truck farming as major commodities, horticulture reigns here as king today.

In the 1960's the greenhouse production business really came into his own. A total of 15 separate growing houses cover about a half-acre in glass and poly. Bedding flower and vegetable plants by the hundreds of dozens go to customers each week through the spring planting season. Many are retailed to local gardening enthusiasts, both on-farm and at market stands at Eastern and Central Markets, but large numbers are also wholesaled to other retailers.

Cantaloupes are likely the single most important crop produced at Miller Plant Farms, sold both as seedling plants in peat pots and as "finished product" from the acres land with black mulching plastic. Customers, from as way way as



Perrydell Farm Dairy is the home starting site for the York County farms tour scheduled next Saturday.



Hanging baskets, individual potted plants and market packets of annuals add to the kaleidoscope of color inside greenhouse at Miller Plant Farm.

Marland Virginia, return each year for plant and fruit quality they've come to depend upon.

Seasonal retailing items keep the greenhouses in production, with traditional holiday plants, cut flower arrangements and houseplants available year round. Holiday pots of chrysanthemums still brighten the production houses in November, while pansy seeds are already going into starter flats for spring.

Truck crops comprise a large volume of the Miller's market

commodities over the summer months. Popular are the steady supplies of sweet corn, cauliflower and field-grown plants, such as broccoli and cabbage, planted in late spring for fall garden crops.

A half-acre of bell peppers planted this year is earmarked for wholesaling to the Weis supermarket chain. Black plastic also went under the pepper crop, along with a new innovation for the season, drip irrigation lines to supply moisture at exacting times for these critical crops.

Purpose of the annual farm tour is to promote a better understanding between the area's farmers and their urban neighbors, through a close-up look at these working family farms.

York County has a total of 2,510 farms, with just over half of the county maintained as farmland. Farmers in York County produce over 27 million gallons of milk and nearly 100,000 dozens of eggs. They also raise 157,000 head of livestock and over 480,000 laying hens and broilers.

## Grange urges Scheps reopening

HARRISBURG — State Grange Master Charles Wismer has requested the PA Milk Marketing Board to issue a dealer's license to the Scheps Cheese Company, Tunkhannock, to operate again under a chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization plan with the provision that they pay their shippers cash on delivery for all milk and with stringent monitoring by the Board.

The State Grange, along with the PA. Farmers Union, has been assisting 120 former Scheps producers by giving their organizational support and subsidizing the farmers' legal fees.

Wismer said, "As a result of our close work with the Scheps producers, we strongly believe that the only way these farmers can recoup their losses is for the plant to reorganize and resume production of cheese."

The Grange leader also noted that under the proposed reorganization plan, farmers do not have to resume shipping milk to Scheps in order to be eligible to receive payments on the money owed them. Provision is made in the reorganization plan to pay back farmers over a period of up to six years, whether they continue to ship or not.

A vote taken of all Scheps creditors indicated that 80 percent favored reorganization over sale of assets, Wismer said. At several meetings held jointly by the Grange and Farmers Union, producers also showed overwhelming support for the restart of Scheps and the proposed reorganization plan.

"Farmers have a lot more to lose if the Scheps plant is closed down than with its restart," Wismer said. "We genuinely feel that we

have the producers' best interests at heart when we recommend that Scheps be issued a license. If the plant is closed permanently, the producers, as unsecured creditors, will lose everything.

"With the provision that producers be paid on a C.O.D. basis, the producers have nothing to lose and everything to gain."

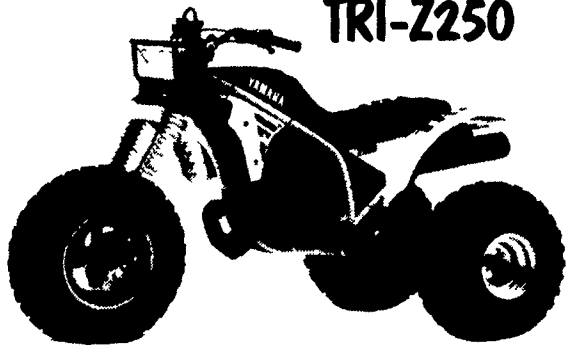
The Milk Marketing Board is expected to make a decision on the Scheps license at their June 21 meeting.



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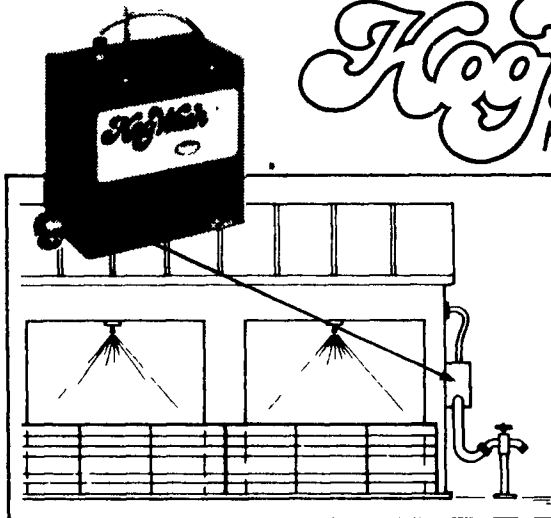
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