

**Farm Credit News**



Raymond Kurtz' hog and grain farm at Shoemakersville was among operations visited by Hercules Jordan, feed mill owner from Northern Ireland. From the left are Douglass Kurtz, son of Raymond Kurtz; Larry Bachman, Farm Credit; Eugene Olshefsky, Farm Credit; Jordan and Kurtz.

**Irish miller visits Berks-Lehigh**

FOGELSVILLE — Berks-Lehigh Valley Farm Credit Service employees Larry Bachman of the Shoemakersville Office and Darlene Staudt of the Fogelsville Office accompanied Hercules Jordan of Ireland on a tour of several farming operations in the Berks-Lehigh area.

Jordan operates Jordan Bros. N.I., Ltd., a family owned feed mill, located in Lisburn, Northern Ireland. Since several generations of his family have been farmers, he was interested in visiting and comparing the farming and milling methods employed by the two countries.

His day included visits to the Raymond Kurtz hog and grain farm, Shoemakersville; Leonard Stoltzfus' dairy farm, Douglassville; Albright's Feed Mill, Kempton; and the dairy farm of William and Doris Howerter, Kempton.

Jordan Bros. N.I., Ltd. produces 2,000 tons of feed per week - 95% is marketed in bulk shipments. Bag feed is a loss item for them but is considered necessary for public and member relations to remain favorable. The entire milling operation is run by computer, untouched by human hands. The major grain grown in Northern Ireland is barley, but 90% of the grain used in his mill is imported - most of it being purchased thru the E.E.C. (European Economic Community). Corn, which is our major grain crop in this area, is not grown there because the climate is not suitable for it. A major difference between the feeds manufactured in Ireland and those in this area, is that much of their feed is in cube (pellets) form. A cube machine is a necessity to everyone in the milling industry. Jordan feels this is the only method of the future.

Farming operations are similar in most areas; they use the same methods, the same farm equipment - even the same brands - and they utilize most of the same blends of feed. Even the climate is close to ours - a little cooler in the summer with a slightly shorter growing season.

Jordan lives only eight miles from Belfast, and when asked about the safety there he said, "It's just as safe as here in America." He feels the major problem is not England as most of the world suspects, but is, rather, "Public Opinion".

While in America, Hercules and his wife, Hannah, are visiting with their daughter and her husband, Dr. and Mrs. Robert P. Seebohm, of Allentown.

**Office, field staffs switch**

FOGELSVILLE — The office and field staff of the Berks-Lehigh Valley Farm Credit Service recently switched duties for a day.

The loan officers and field representatives remained in the four offices and performed the daily secretarial and accounting functions, while the office staff went out into the "field" for a tour of several farming operations.

The employees of all four branches participated: with the Fogelsville and Titamy staffs traveling in an area close to the Fogelsville office and the Shoemakersville and Hegins staffs staying close to the Shoemakersville territory.

Even though the people in the office constantly work with farm terminology, they rarely have a chance to see what they are reading about, since it is the field staff who usually makes direct visits to farms.

The day's activities included visits to: (1.) A dairy farm, (2.) a hog and grain farm, (3.) mushroom houses, (4.) an orchard, (5.) a greenhouse, and (6.) a feed mill.

Both groups met for dinner at the end of the tour and the lively conversation that dominated the evening meal, indicated the idea of changing duties was a success.



From the left, Alan Lutz of John A. Lutz & Sons; Randy Setzer, Fogelsville Office; Janice Rissinger, Hegins Office; Betty Emerich, Shoemakersville Office; Dianne Seidel, Fogelsville Office; are shown in Farm Credit program.

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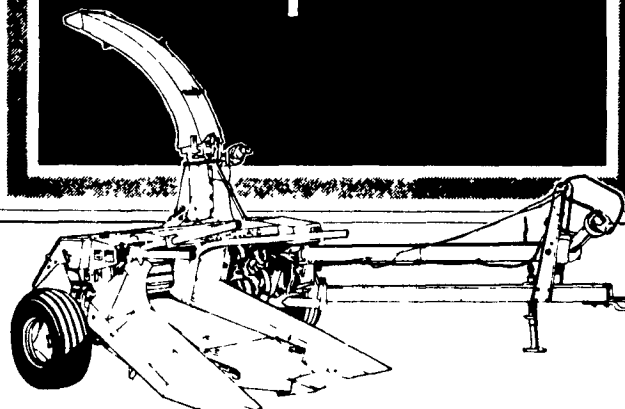
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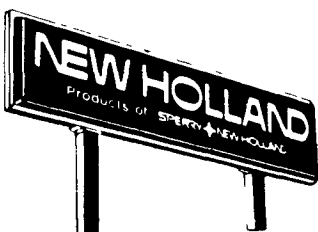
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