

## 'Dutch' agent DeLong retires in Mifflin

LEWISTOWN — Clair D. DeLong, county Extension director in Mifflin County, has retired after 37 years of service to Penn State. A native of Germania, DeLong is known for his detailed knowledge of Pennsylvania Dutch life and customs.

DeLong began his Extension career in 1947. He was assigned to Centre County, with the title of assistant county agent. His assignment as director of the Mifflin County Extension service occurred in 1954. He was promoted to the rank of Senior Extension Agent in 1980. The Senior rank is the highest in the county Extension system, and its bestowal by the College of Agriculture is a recognition of talent and dedication in planning and carrying out educational programs for farm families and other clientele.

Many old-timers will remember DeLong's columns written for Pennsylvania Dutch readers of the Milheim Journal, Centre Democrat, and Farm Bureau Mirror. More recently, DeLong wrote a gardeners' column for the Lewistown Sentinel. The excellence of this writing was acknowledged when he was presented the Regional Award of the American Federation of Garden Clubs.

DeLong has been active in all phases of the Mifflin County Extension program, especially in dairy, agronomy, farm management, and poultry projects. Mifflin County has been a pioneer in developing a procedure for the profitable and safe disposal of whey, a by-product of cottage cheese manufacture. Discharge of whey into conventional waste-disposal and treatment systems usually will overload the system and can cause contamination of streams and other disposal areas.



Clair DeLong

In Mifflin County, the whey has been converted into cattle feed. Instead of being a contaminant, it is recycled through the cow. With this procedure, costs of feeding cattle are reduced and the environmental hazard is eliminated. Thirty-five Mifflin County dairy herds are presently involved; annual value of the whey product, in terms of conventional dairy feeds, is about \$200,000.

Upon retirement, DeLong hopes to spend more time doing farm appraisals. He has already arranged for additional training in this activity. He also feels a deep personal commitment to the problems of the world's hungry, and will devote a major portion of his retirement hours to work with mission and other groups in the

United Church of Christ. He has served on major policy groups in the Church including a 6-year term on the Board of World Ministries. He is treasurer of the Central Pennsylvania World Hunger Association (which involves a local effort of nearly \$100,000 each year), and speaks before church congregations in many states.

DeLong holds two Penn State degrees, a BS in agricultural education and an MS in rural

sociology. He interrupted his undergraduate work in order to earn his wings and fly as a navigator with the US Army Air Corps, participating in several missions over the European Theatre.

DeLong has been active in the national and Pennsylvania associations of County Agricultural Agents throughout his Extension career. In 1970 the national association presented him

with its award for distinguished service to agriculture. He is a member of the Kiwanis service club, Elks, Pennsylvania Farmers' Association, Epsilon Sigma Phi (an Extension honorary fraternity), and the social fraternity Alpha Sigma Phi. His wife is the former Alice Gensler; she has been teaching in Mifflin County schools for 28 years. They are parents of one son and one daughter.

## Md. begins toll-free market phone report

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The seasonal consumer and farmer information service, "MDA Market Line" which has been a service of the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Marketing Services Section for the past two years went on a toll-free telephone call basis July 1, announced Bradley H. Powers.

Powers, Chief of the Marketing Services Section of MDA said, "we have made arrangements to use an 800 telephone system so that all Marylanders can now avail themselves of the news reports without having to pay for a toll call.

"Beginning July 1, anyone in Maryland can call 800-492-2105 at anytime for the reports which consist of three minute taped

messages changed each weekday at 4:00 p.m.

"The schedule for the reports is as follows: On Mondays a weekly crop weather report is put on line giving the latest growing conditions, planting progress, and agriculturally-related weather information.

"On Tuesdays, the report consists of various farm-oriented news such as grain stocks, slaughter figures, inventories, prices paid and prices received statistics.

"On Wednesdays, the report is a summary of the well-known "Retail Food Price Report" based on a cost survey taken each week in supermarkets by MDA's Helen Huber.

"The Thursday report is a version of the "Maryland Feed &

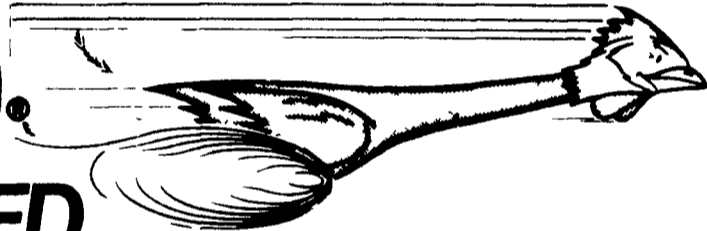
Grain Report" which gives summary information on cash grain prices, feed prices and livestock prices.

"Of particular interest to consumers is the Friday report which consists of a survey on availability of Maryland-grown fruits and vegetables so that buyers can take advantage of local harvest opportunities at roadside stands, pick-your-own farms and markets that sell locally produced fruits and vegetables," he said.



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