

York Farmers Assn. favors tropical fish for farm ponds

BY JOYCE BUPP
Staff Correspondent

AIRVILLE — Toxic waste and an unusual fish commanded policy

attention as York County Farmers' Association members met last Friday evening at the Airville Fire Hall for their annual meeting and election.

Dairyman & utility head

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farm products are taken for granted, Sattazahn also remarked, "well, we take our electric for granted too, but let it be off for an hour..."

Communication

"If we can communicate...if they can see how our operation works, educate the public on our side too," Smith concluded. "I like this program."

The Berks County Extension Service in cooperation with the farming community will be hosting the first annual Farm-City Banquet in Berks County on Nov. 15 at the Berks County 4-H Com-

munity Center in Bern Township. In addition to the exchange program between Floyd Smith, Met-Ed, and Clarence Sattazahn, dairy farmer, the President of Albright College, David Ruffer, and beef producer, Dennis Manbeck, educated each other on their professions while radio personality, Charlie Adams, and swine producer, Mike Moore, taught each other. The banquet will include presentations from these individuals along with judging contests and a night of entertainment for everybody. Reservations are needed by Nov. 10 and are available from the Ag Center at 378-1327.

The 120 members attending voted to recommend that the state legislature phase out the use of landfill and injection well methods of disposal of toxic and hazardous commercial and industrial wastes. Instead, York association members suggest legislation and opportunities be provided for industries to implement resource recovery products, develop revised manufacturing processes and alternate technologies.

Landfill controversies continue at several of the waste disposal spots in York County, where residential drinking-water wells are showing chemical pollutant traces.

A second resolution deals with controlling vegetative growth in farm ponds, using the "white amur," a type of tropical fish. The species is suggested as an alternative to chemical aquatic weed and grass controls, where chemicals might be undesirable, impractical or unduly expensive.

That recommendation further suggests that the Pennsylvania Farmers Association petition the state legislature and the state Fish and Game Commission to allow the use of the white amur to control weeds and grass in farm ponds.

White amur, say members who developed the resolution, eat only vegetation, and do not prey on other types of fish. The species will allegedly not reproduce in northern climate waters.

However, white amur fish are reported to be outlawed in neighboring Maryland as a "nuisance fish," because of potential destruction of that state's marshlands.

As part of the program, the film Chesapeake Horizons, dealing with the declining water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its watersheds, was shown. Farmer members authoring the resolution on white amurs and their hybrids for pond weed control suggested that such natural predator controls would fit with the goals of decreasing chemical use in the Chesapeake watersheds.

Both policy recommendations adopted by the York County membership will be sent for state consideration during PFA's October 28 and 29 policy finalization meeting, prior to their presentation for delegate consideration at the November state convention.

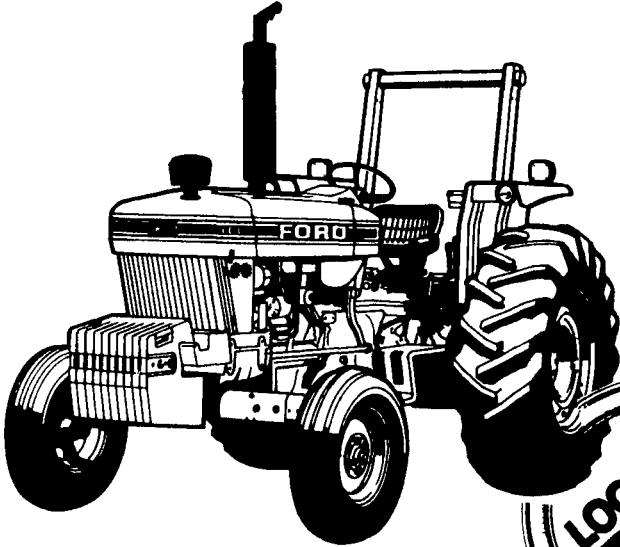
York County Farmer's president Ellis Crowl, Airville, expressed satisfaction with the annual meeting, and noted that the membership drive is now underway, and well ahead of last year's fall signup.

County farm families interested in membership in the farmers association may contact president Ellis Crowl at 862-3955.



Preparing to load wheelbarrow, Met Ed head Floyd Smith explains "this is one thing I know how to do on a farm."

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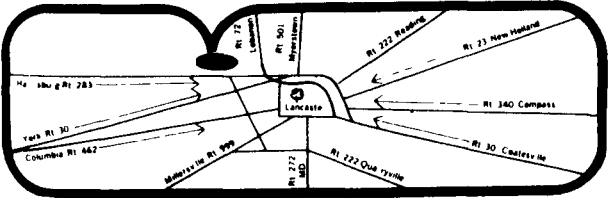
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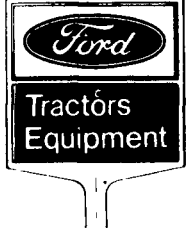
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