

Ag leader

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She said another way to gain power is to acquaint people with your goals, and that means working effectively with the media. She said a good way to communicate with politicians is to write letters - lots of them.

Women in agriculture, Heuser said, are often "unheard, unseen

and forgotten," and are usually relegated to pouring coffee. She added, "That's like buying a \$60,000 tractor and using it to mow the lawn."

She discussed the difference between "lifestyle farmers" and "production agriculture," and cautioned legislators not to confuse the two. There are 300,000

production farmers in the country, and although farms are getting larger in size, Heuser predicts that the conglomeration farmer is already going out of the picture.

A family farm, according to Heuser, has nothing to do with the number of people involved, the number of acres nor the amount of money it produces. She said that a family farm is a form of business enterprise where the entrepreneurial decisions about production are made by a family for profit. While "corporations" have a bad name in farming, she noted that many family operations are corporations.

Calling the evening a "celebration of those of you who are food producers," Heuser said, "You are the best. You are the elite. We are the most fantastic food producers the world has ever known. We have created a volcano of food production." Because of agriculture's productivity, she noted, 98 percent of the population is released to do things other than farming. She added, "Farmers are better educated than the average urban person."

The problem in agriculture arises, Heuser says, "because we are lousy at marketing. We buy retail and sell wholesale."

Heuser predicted that the most important issue in the next ten years will be water, and added, "There will be a tremendous change in the markets. We must go overseas more."



Laura Heuser, one of the founders of Women for Survival of Agriculture in Michigan, addressed farmers and legislators at the Keystone Cornucopia in Hershey on Monday.

Extension plans

small fruits meeting

YORK - The Penn State Extension Service will hold a Regional Small Fruits Meeting on Feb. 7th from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Biglerville Fruit Research Lab in Adams County. The Lab is located 1/2 mile west from the square in Biglerville along Rt. 234.

The speakers and topics include: Jim Travis, Penn State Fruit pathologist, "Review of Small Fruit Diseases";

Roland Daniels, Penn State horticulturist, "Raspberry Research Update".

Chris Walsh, University of Maryland Horticulturist, "Weed Control-Handling Chemical Spills";

Larry Yager, Penn State Marketing Specialist "Marketing and Record Keeping", and a Grower's Discussion Panel.

For more information contact the York County Extension Office (757-9657) or Tom Piper at the Adams County Extension Office (334-6271).

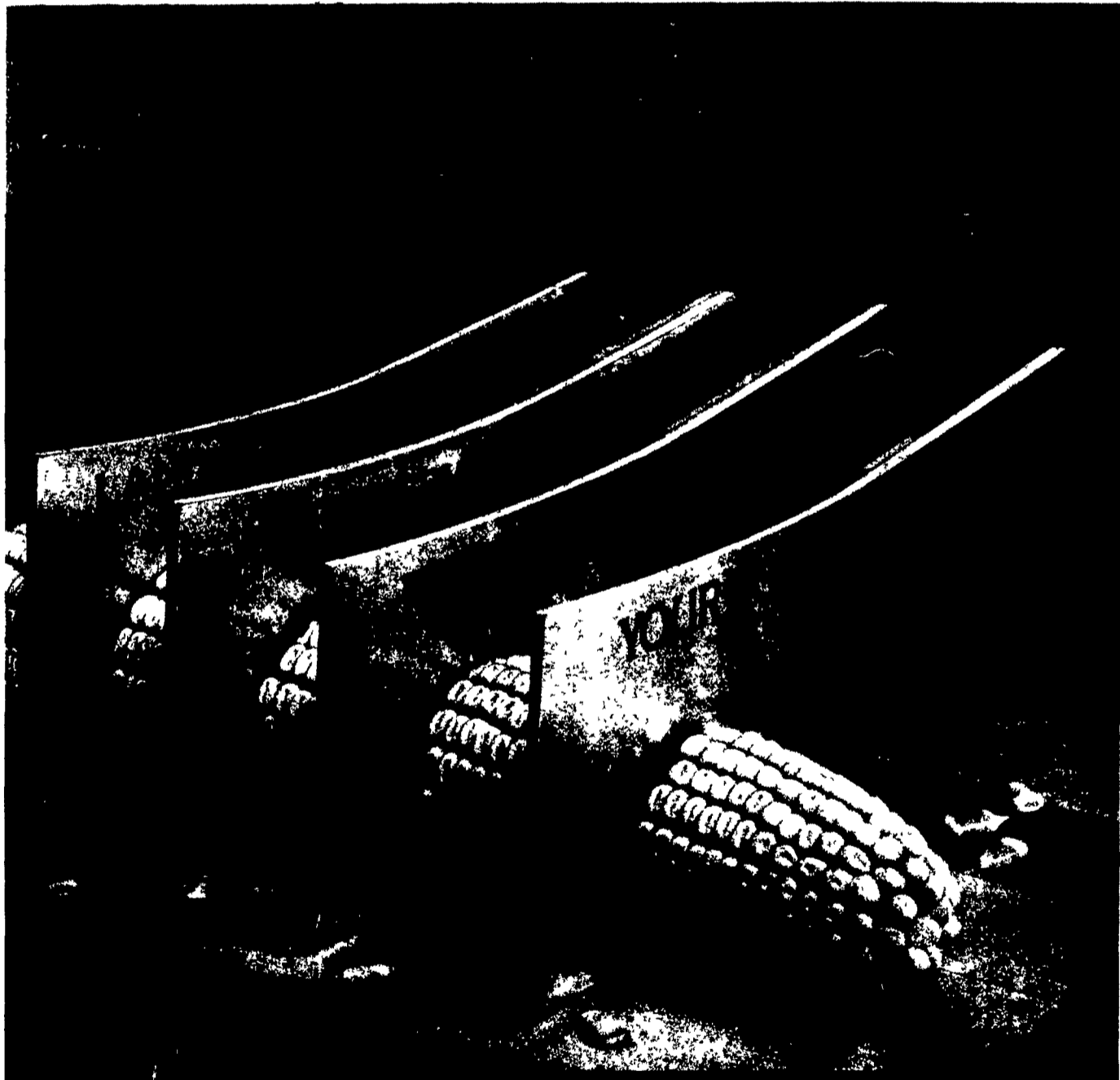
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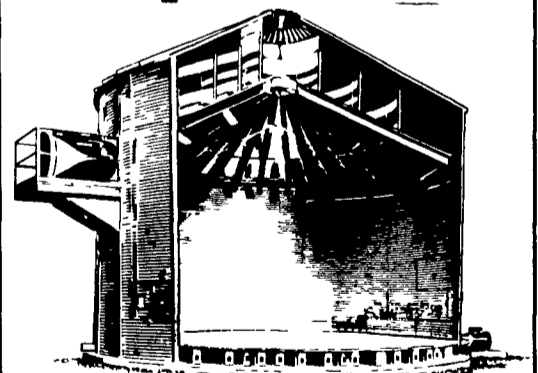
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