

Maple Producers hold annual meeting

MEADVILLE — The Northeastern Pennsylvania Maple Producer's Association Annual Meeting and Dinner was held on Jan. 21, at the Pleasant Valley Grange Hall, Route 191, North of Honesdale. About 70 maple producers, their families and friends attended this all-day meeting.

A new maple syrup movie titled: "Pure Maple - Frost and Fire" was shown to the group. This film is the newest promotional film dealing with maple syrup production, equipment used in the production of maple syrup and the different products and uses of maple syrup. This film will be available for use by schools, civic organizations, service groups, 4-H clubs and others interested in learning more about maple syrup production. Interested groups should call the Wayne County Extension Office at 717-253-5970 ext. 114 for details on scheduling this film.

Two educational speakers were also featured at this year's meeting. The first speaker was Louis Beck, from the Wayne County Soil Conservation Service. Lou's talk was titled, "Developing and Maintaining Access Roads." Lowe had a series of slides

showing proper and improper road construction and design and how it can affect the stability and integrity of surrounding soils. He also had samples of Agri-Fabric, a synthetic road building material used to gain access to unstable and poorly drained roadways, swampy areas and temporary roads.

The other educational speaker was Jack Gearhart, Wayne County service forester with the Bureau of Forestry. Jack's talk was titled, "Diseases and Insects In The Sugarbush." Jack identified some of the insects that could be a problem in forested areas in Wayne County and surrounding counties in New York State. He also identified some of the different diseases that can affect the health of maple trees and other hardwoods in a forested area.

A special feature of this meeting was a musical program presented by Ed and Geraldine Berbaum, representatives of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. Their program was titled: "Folk Fiddle Music in Pennsylvania: An Early American Heritage." Using a fiddle, a guitar, a banjo and an alto saxophone, they played a number of selections including waltzes, polkas, cotillions, jigs,

reels, schottishes, and square dance tunes. They also included some history and background information on how these types of music were introduced into America by early settlers from other countries.

Bob Hess, secretary-treasurer of the Pennsylvania Maple Syrup Council, gave a report on the Pennsylvania Maple Syrup Council Annual Meeting which was held at the Pennsylvania Farm Show. He also reported on the maple syrup sales booths at this year's Farm Show.

In other association business, Ralph Curtis, from R.D.#1, Newfoundland and Spencer Callender, from R.D.#2, Thompson, were re-elected as directors for the Northeastern Pennsylvania Maple Producer's Association.

Wayne County maple producers interested in joining the Northeastern Pennsylvania Maple Producer's Association are encouraged to contact Ralph Curtis at R.D.#1, Newfoundland, Pa. or by calling 717-689-2353.

The Wayne County Extension Service has information on maple syrup production available at all times. Those interested in receiving this information are encouraged to call 717-253-5970 ext. 114 or they can pick-up the information by stopping at the office which is located in the basement of the Wayne County Courthouse in Honesdale, Pa.



David J. Yoder, left, received congratulations from Walter Jacoby of the American Institute of Cooperatives at a retirement party held in Yoder's honor Saturday.

Yoder retired as general manager of Atlantic Breeders Cooperative after 41 years of service. Jacoby cited Yoder as "a great believer in cooperative education" and for his "exceptional devotion to the work of cooperatives."

Twelve people made presentations to Yoder during the program, which was attended by 275 people. In response to Jacoby, Yoder said: "I couldn't have selected a better vocation. It is the greatest honor to have had a part in making available the benefits from improved genetics and to make better dairymen of farmers."

Family Farm Assistance

Program information available

HARRISBURG — Senator Edward W. Helfrick, R-27, reports that information on the Family Farm Assistance Program is now available.

According to Helfrick, the Family Farm Assistance Program will provide for development of the agricultural-rural base of the state through incentives to new farmers, or those wishing to convert or expand their operations. To accomplish this goal, two types of financial assistance will be provided; loan guarantees and interest deferrals.

This program was established by the Agricultural Development Act,

which was signed into law on July 2, 1984 by Governor Dick Thornburgh. Ten million dollars have been appropriated by the General Assembly for the Family Farm Assistance Program to be used through June 30, 1987. Direct loans are not available through this program, since the program was designed to encourage farm lending through private financial institutions.

"Pennsylvania's family farmers are the backbone of Pennsylvania agriculture, our number one industry," said Helfrick. "This important program provides for agricultural development through economic initiatives to our farmers."

Additional information and materials may be obtained through the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Development, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, Pa. 17110 or calling (717) 783-8460.

Commodity loans

WASHINGTON — Commodity loans disbursed in February by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry a 9-1/8 percent interest rate, CCC Executive Vice President Everett Rank said today.

The new rate, down from 9-1/2 percent, reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury in February, Rank said.

Poultry inventories down

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania poultry producers excluding commercial broilers had 22.5 million birds on hand December 1, according to the Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. This represents a five percent decrease from the December 1, 1983 level of 23.8 million chickens.

The total inventory of hens and pullets in the laying flocks was 18.5 million, seven percent more than last year's 17.3 million. Pullets three months old and older but not yet of laying age amounted to 1.88 million, 36 percent below last year's level of 2.94 million. Pullets under three months of age at 1.92 million was 44 percent below the 1983 level of 3.40 million. Other chickens (primarily roosters in breeding flocks) were estimated at 200,000, 25 percent more than the

160,000 in inventory last year. Considering all chickens (excluding commercial broilers) the value per bird was placed at \$2.25 compared with \$1.85 per head for December 1, 1983.

The December 1, 1984 United States inventory estimates and the percent change from the previous year are as follows: all chickens (excluding commercial broilers) 374 million, up two percent; hens


and pullets of laying age, 286 million, up three percent; pullets three months and older but not yet of laying age, 39 million, up three percent; pullets under three months of age, 43 million, up one percent, and all other chickens, six million, up three percent.

The value per of the U.S. flock was placed at \$2.02. This compares with the December 1, 1983 value per head of \$1.96.

Finance clinic

LANCASTER — A two-day Farm Financial Management Clinic is being sponsored by the Lancaster County Cooperative Extension Service, Feb. 21-22 at the Lancaster Farm and Home

Center. Advance registration is necessary; reservations are accepted on a first-come basis. For more information and for registration call the Lancaster County Office at 717-394-6851.



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