

## Cumberland farm tour set

by Montie Tak  
Staff Correspondent

CARLISLE — "I think it's a worthwhile project to have our urban neighbors understand a little more about farm life," says Mabel Strock.

"Now that they have been made more aware of the problems of farming I think people need to understand and know the facts."

Mrs. Strock, her husband Clyde and their family are just a few of the people who decided to act on that thought. The result is the first Cumberland County Farm Tour, scheduled for June 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., sponsored by the Cumberland County Farmers Association.

Members of the public will have an opportunity to visit two Mechanicsburg area farms, Ashcombe Farm Dairy and Strockland Farms. Parking is available at Mechanicsburg High School, where shuttle buses will run to both farms.

"This is a way to show people about farm life," says Kate Mains. "The women's committee of the Cumberland County Farmers Association sponsored mall promotions in previous years. But this year the suggestion was made within the group and we thought it was time we had a farm tour."

Mains contacted all the county schools and visited elementary school supervisors because she felt this was an educational experience children don't have every day. But the tour, she notes, is not primarily for school children. "It is a public relations venture to show people what happens on a farm. It is geared to adult interest as well."

Visitors to Ashcombe's will be able to see the milk house and parlor facilities and hear an explanation of milking equipment. The processing plant will be in operation so people can see—and sample—ice cream being made.

4-H and FFA members will have projects on display in a large tent provided by Purina. Antique farm machinery and tools owned by Fred and Rose Dillner, Shippenburg, will also be on display.

Atlantic Breeders Coop will have

a representative at Ashcomb's to explain artificial insemination and representatives from feed companies will explain how feeds are formulated to give cows a balanced ration and to maximize health and production.

At Strockland Farms visitors will see young turkeys and the area where they are processed. There will be a slide presentation on farrowing and the nursery area of the swine facility. Since the

Strocks raise, process and store their own feeds, there will also be a tour of the grain drying facility.

During the farm tour, food samples will be offered by various firms. Hatfield's Packing, Hatfield, Pa., will make a giant pork burger. The burger, about six feet in diameter, uses about 100 pounds of pork and will be cooked in a special wire rack.

Kay and Ray's, Newville, will

furnish potato chips. People can sample milk provided by the Hershey Milk Plant, apple juice from Lucky Leaf and cheese from Phillips in Lancaster. Harrison Farms, Littlestown, will provide pork roll samples.

A number of local farm machinery dealers will have exhibits on the tour, including H. R. Gutshall, Peterman Farm Equipment, Ernest Shover, Paul Shover Farm Equipment and

Carlisle Equipment.

Mains and at least 20 other organizers of the tour have worked on the project six months. She says, "I think the work farmers do and the problems they have are unique. The percentage of farmers in the county is diminishing each year. As we become more and more of a minority it becomes important for people who are not farming to understand the problems we face."

## Rodale sets Field Days

KUTZTOWN — Four field days are scheduled this summer at the 305-acre Rodale Research Center here. The number of field days was increased from one in previous years to four this year to accommodate surging interest in the Center's research which is primarily focused on identifying ways for farmers to reduce their input costs and simultaneously maintain or boost their profits.

The dates for the field days are June 25 and Aug. 7 for Farmers' Field Days and Aug. 8 and Sept. 14 for Researchers' Field days. The Farmers' Field days will feature identical morning and afternoon sessions beginning at 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. each day with hay

wagons taking visitors through the research fields. The Researchers' Field Days will run from 10:00 a.m. until about 3:00 p.m. each day and will include field tours as well as data presentations for university and government scientists. The media is invited to all of the days.

Featured on the tours will be the wrap-up of the five-year Conversion Project which compares three side-by-side farming systems to identify the best crops and practices to maintain yields and income during the conversion from chemical-intensive to low-input production.

Overseeding, a promising technique which seeds legumes or

grasses into row crops for nitrogen production and weed and erosion control, will also figure prominently. Several related projects are being initiated in 1985, with farmers' immediate needs in mind. They will examine aspects of the overseeding technology such as the effect of densities of legumes and corn and timing of plow down on maximum N production.

Other projects to be included for the first time on the tour are intercropping of corn and beans, perennial polycultures for marginal lands, grain amaranth variety development, and observations on ridge-tilling and conservation tillage without herbicides for weed control.

This season will be the fourth year the RRC has held field days for farmers. Last year over 150 people attended the field day on August 15.

The Research Center is located six miles northeast of Kutztown on Siegfriedale Road off Grim Road in Maxatawny Township, Berks County, Pa. Signs are located along Route 222 to indicate where to turn coming from either Allentown or Reading.

Reservations should be made for any of the field days by contacting Nancy Nickum Bailey or Stephanie G. Doyle at the Rodale Research Center, Box 323, RD #1, Kutztown, Pa. 19530 (215)683-6302. There is no charge for the tours.



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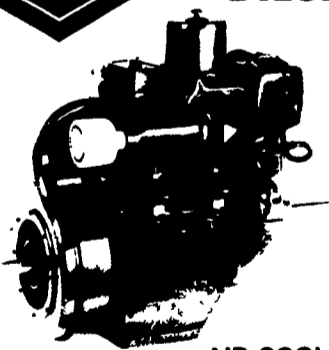
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