

## Couples selected to plan 1986 co-op couples conference

BY SALLY BAIR  
Staff Correspondent

DANVILLE — Forty-three young farm couples participated in a two-day conference at Danville this week sponsored by the Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives. Designed to increase their knowledge of farmer cooperatives, the workshops offered insights into the responsibilities members have to their cooperatives.

Four of the couples were selected to help plan next year's conference, based on their leadership and participation in conference activities.

Selected were

• David and Barbara Kehr, 47 Fish and Game Road, Littlestown Dairy farmers, the Kehrs were sponsored by the Adams-Franklin-York Council of PAFC.

• Roy and Sue Crow, Kennedyville, Md. The Crows also operate a dairy farm and were sponsored by Inter-State Milk Producers.

• Brian and Janet Beckman, 8521 Lewis Road, Harbor Creek. Grape and tomato growers, the Beckmans were sponsored by the National Grape Cooperative.

• Daryl and Linda Heisey, R1, Rexville, NY. Dairy and veal farmers, the Heiseys were sponsored by Headwaters Farm Credit.

Another couple, Erick and Dixie Coolidge, R7, Wellsboro, served as one of four leaders couples for this year's conference, and will return to chair next year's conference. Frank and Virginia Graybill, R1, Hershey, will represent the couples by serving on the PAFC board of directors.

A popular portion of the annual conference was a round table discussion featuring cooperative

directors and management answering questions about the various kinds of cooperatives. In one group, the couples learned the route legislation takes before becoming enacted; and in another they got to ask specific questions about the operation of their cooperatives.

Vo-ag teacher Fred Dillner, leading a discussion on cooperatives, told the couples they must begin thinking as member-user-owners of their cooperatives.

Couples were interested in becoming more involved in their cooperatives, but pointed out that the time involved in being a director is sometimes at conflict with their need to make their farming operation a profitable one.

Sessions were also devoted to increasing their leadership abilities and to understand themselves and others. In separate sessions, women and men had the opportunity to share the frustrations they have in common in farming operations, as well as the joys



These four couples attended the two-day conference and were chosen to return to plan and carry out the 1985 PAFC couple's conference. From left are David and Barbara Kehr, Littlestown; Daryl and Linda Heisey, Rexville, NY; Roy and Sue Crow, Kennedyville, Md.; and Brian and Janet Beckman, Harbor Creek.

## Ag Secretary Grubb addresses PAFC Co-op Couples Conference

BY SALLY BAIR  
Staff Correspondent

DANVILLE — Calling cooperatives "a very vital part of agriculture," Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Richard Grubb said he hopes to continue working with cooperatives in his

new role. Grubb was speaking last week to the 43 young farm couples who attended the PAFC Couple's Conference in Danville.

After six weeks on the job, Grubb said he has found that within the Department the staff is committed to serving both the farm and the

agri-business community. "We are here to promote and to serve Pennsylvania agriculture," Grubb declared.

In addition to meeting with ag groups, Grubb has spent his time getting to know other governmental agencies in the Capitol

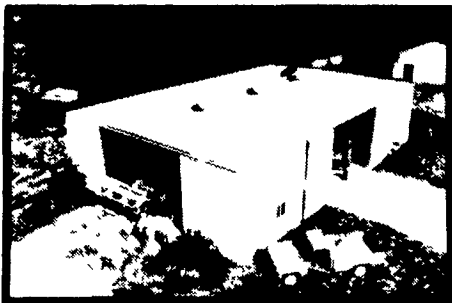
City. Although he acknowledges that Pennsylvania farmers are under stress, Grubb says they are in better financial shape than their peers in other parts of the country because of their much lower debt

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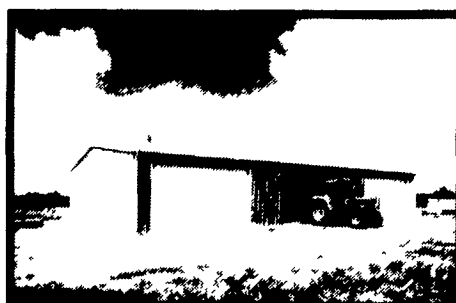
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