

PFA creates 'Friends of Ag'

CAMP HILL — Pennsylvania's leading farm organization, the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA), announces the creation of a charitable foundation dedicated to preserving agriculture and agribusiness as the number one industry in Pennsylvania.

Keith Eckel, president of PFA, said, "Our Board of Directors has approved plans to establish a foundation to be called Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture

which will provide an opportunity for farmers and other businessmen to contribute to efforts to promote and sustain agriculture as a leading economic force."

PFA is a voluntary, general farm organization representing 23,313 farm family members.

Eckel, a Lackawanna County dairy and vegetable farmer, said the ultimate goal of the foundation will be the preservation of agricultural land in the state. The foundation will also be used to fund

programs to provide economic, scientific, educational, informational and other benefits for the agricultural community.

"The major goals should include improved production and growth of Pennsylvania agriculture products," Eckel said, "thereby increasing Pennsylvania employment."

Other goals of the foundation will be in the direction of consumer education and marketing. Another goal will be to promote better

understanding between producers of different farm commodities. Farmer education in the latest developments and use of high technology will also be a goal of the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture foundation.

"The foundation will also be used to channel funds to programs such as the 4-H, FFA and college scholarships to help Pennsylvania develop a new generation of agricultural leaders," Eckel said. In addition, conservation and

environmental projects will be targeted for foundation help.

"The foundation will be working in a lot of areas to improve agriculture and our state's economy," Eckel said. "In the next few weeks we will be putting the just-approved plans into action. We hope to be able to begin accepting charitable contributions by our Annual Meeting in November.

Contributions to the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture will be tax-exempt.

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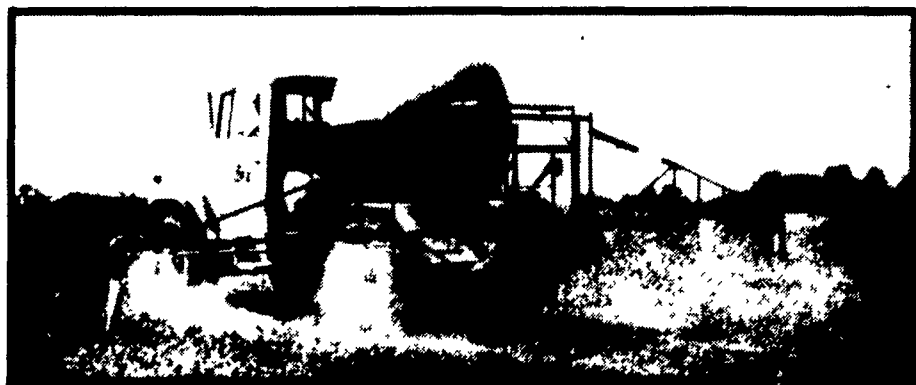
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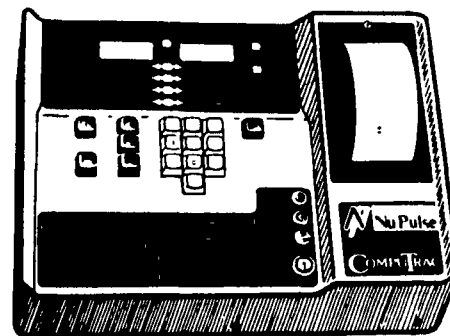
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