

Atlantic Processing purchased by Johanna

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Lehigh Valley Dairies, Inc. Employees of Atlantic will be offered employment by the new company and no jobs will be lost.

The only essential change will be at the management level—of Atlantic, according to a source there. As they put it "Everyone came back to work, only some of us had different titles."

Ruth reported that although Lehigh Valley is a cooperative, no vote was needed among its members. This is due to the voting privilege given to the board of directors at Atlantic when it was formed in 1960 as a cooperative federation.

The members will be receiving a complete report on the events that enabled the sale to occur, Ruth commented. It will be discussed at the Annual Meeting of the Lehigh Valley Farmers scheduled March 12 at the Host Farm. The organization will also be holding district meetings to further explain this topic.

Ruth who was in on the negotiations when they began six months ago, said at the beginning

he "had lots of apprehensions." But now he feels good about it. One of the duties of the board of directors, he explained, is to gain the best return for the producer.

Being a producer himself, he was also looking at it from that viewpoint. He went on, saying it was "passed with unanimity by the board."

One reason this merger was approved, he added, was the board's feeling that it would continue to return a good dollar to the farmers. Ruth commented that this opens a brighter market since this reputable organization brings non-farm money with which to build a good or better market.

Ruth was referring to the recent purchase of Johanna by John Labatt Ltd. of London, Ontario.

Labatt, while known primarily for its beer division, also owns Ault Dairy, the largest dairy in Canada.

According to Rosenthal, Labatt considers itself a North American food and beverage company serving only 10 percent of the continent. They were seeking to

increase their share of the North American market by the purchase of Johanna and subsequently Atlantic.

All of their wholly owned companies are individually managed and continue to grow.

These recent purchases have made a significant impact on serving a larger portion of the continent. A spokesman for the Milk Marketing Board in Harrisburg reported that the two dairies may account for in "excess of 70 percent" of milk sales in the Philadelphia area.

However, Goldman contends this is not concentrating too much milk business in the hands of one company. Johanna was required to notify the Federal Trade Commission of its merger plans and was not prohibited from proceeding with the union.

The future looks prosperous for this marriage. As Ruth philosophized, "there is a time to buy and a time to sell. When this profitable offer came, it was time to sell."

Budget cuts cloud Extension's future

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extension programs, cutting out funds for 4-H, family living and community development programs.

For now Extension personnel are adopting a "wait and see" attitude Phillips said. They expect changes as the budget process continues and will wait to plan program changes until the financial picture clears.

"We're hopeful that a lot of cuts be requested will be restored," Phillips said. However, he added, if too many of the president's proposed budget cuts are restored, it could trigger automatic cuts across the board as provided for in Gramm-Rudman.

Should that happen, Extension can expect total budget cuts of

about 15 percent or more, rather than 30 percent under the president's budget proposal, Phillips said.

While Reagan's budget winds its way through the legislative maze and Gramm-Rudman awaits a verdict from the Supreme Court, Extension personnel will be waiting to see just how much of their budget will fall under the Gramm-Rudman ax.

In the meantime, Phillips said, they are hoping that farmers and others served by the Extension Service will be telling their congressmen how much benefit they get from Extension programs. "We're hoping that the people we work with and serve will speak for us," he said.

Farm Toy Show set for March 22

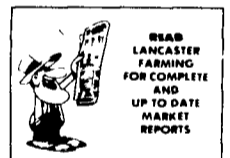
LANCASTER — The fourth annual Lancaster Farm Toy Show, Sale and Auction will be held March 22 at the Lancaster

Treadway Inn.

Collectors, dealers, parts supplies and toy lovers will cover over 100 tables with displays and thousands of items for sale. Exhibitors from 15 states, Canada and England are scheduled to participate.

The show and sale, scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., will fill the French Quarters Courtyard, Orleans Ballroom and Basin banquet room of the Inn. Farm toy models from the '30s to the present will be displayed.

A consignment auction will begin at 5 p.m. in the Orleans Room. Experienced farm toy auctioneer Wally Hooker from Indiana will call the auction of about 500 toys. Hooker will accept consignments from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. the day of the auction. For additional information contact Farm Supply, 717-464-3956.



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