

Tioga dairymen file appeal in buyout program

BY BARBARA MILLER
Staff Correspondent

WESTFIELD — Edwin and Sandy Hartman, dairy farmers from Tioga County, filed an appeal charging the USDA with discrimination in the recent Dairy Termination Program.

The appeal, which the Hartmans filed April 7, was made in conjunction with a class action suit currently in progress in Kentucky, where approximately 40 farmers have brought similar charges against USDA.

The claim charges that participating in the milk diversion program, which ended March 31, 1985, adversely affected their bid in the buyout program.

Hartman explained that during their participation in the diversion program, their milk production

was about 29 percent lower and that nine months of their 12-month base period used for the buyout program occurred when they were in the diversion program. This, he said, forced them to bid a much higher figure for the buyout program than if they had never participated in the diversion.

"We are being discriminated against because we were forced to bid higher to achieve the same end," Hartman said. "No matter which period the government had chosen, we would have still been in the diversion program."

Hartman, who milks 80 cows and farms 500 acres, said he doesn't know how many dairymen who bid in the buyout program had participated in the diversion. However, he said, he knows other dairymen in Tioga County and in New York and Wisconsin, who are

interested in the lawsuit.

Hartman said two preliminary hearings have been held in Kentucky, although lawyers think the actual proceedings will not begin

until next spring. The attorneys said they had never before seen programs overlap like the buyout and diversion programs, Hartman said.

"We want people to understand that there are attorneys in Kentucky who are handling it and that there is a legal fund being put together," Hartman said.

York Farm Credit Holds Annual Meeting

The Production Credit Association and Federal Land Bank Association of York recently held their three sectional annual stockholders' meetings. The meetings were attended by 700 members and guests.

Leroy R. Bupp, R-2, Seven Valleys and Horace H. Waybright, 1752 Mason Dixon Road, Get-

tysburg were re-elected as Directors to the Federal Land Bank Association Board for three year terms. Elected for a three year term to the Production Credit Association Board was Lester E. Martin of 3926 Guilford Spring Road, Chambersburg.

The York Farm Credit Service

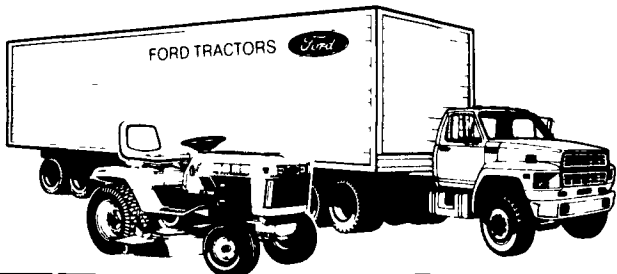
presently provides over \$90 million in long term Land Bank loans and \$30 million in short term Production Credit Association loans to its borrowers in Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Perry and York Counties.

Farm Credit is a nationwide credit cooperative which lends money to farmers, farm related business owners, and rural home owners. The York Farm Credit Service is part of the Baltimore District, one of twelve districts throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

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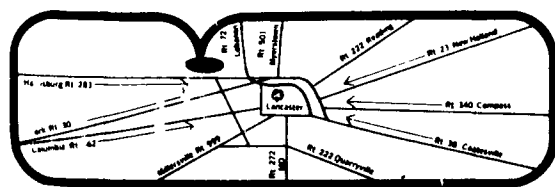
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