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Part Time Farmers Socially Acceptable

BY EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

ITHACA, NEW YORK—A leading agriculturalist told the Northeast Farm Communicators Council here this week that he expects a growing division of agriculture into two groups of farmers. Speaking on the topic of "What's Ahead for Agricultural" Dr. Kenneth Robinson, Professor of Agricultural Economics Cornell University said the one group will be a relatively small group of efficient farmers that utilize the latest technology to produce the cheap food you buy in the supermarket. The other larger group will farm part-time and therefore

will not be nearly as dependent on agriculture for their income.



Dr. Kenneth Robinson

"I think this is socially desirable," Robinson said. "The part-time farmer cares for the land, buys supplies locally, but does not need maximum production for income to add to the surplus. European countries and Japan already have this kind of farm situation," Robinson said.

"I don't recall when there has been such a wide spread among dairy farmers in their ability to cope with what's happening. There will be survivors. In the northeast we don't have the very depressed land prices that exist in the mid-west. This helps banks and other creditors. Therefore, we don't have nearly the secondary depressant effect on communities

that are dependent on agriculture. Some farms are doing very well even with the low prices. And other farms are in extremely difficult situations."

"I would like to project a lot of optimism for agriculture but I don't think the facts warrant a lot of optimism, at least for the next few years. A lot of what happens is going to depend on government. The role of government is going to be especially influential for a small group of commodities such as grains and dairying. What happens in Washington will effect these commodities very much. For other commodities however this is not true. Market forces will tell the

story in fruits, vegetables and poultry products. About one half of the receipts that come from

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Second CRP Signup Nets 13,000 Acres

HARRISBURG — USDA officials were disappointed enough with the response to the first Conservation Reserve Program signup in March to schedule a second signup for May 5 to 16.

Following the tabulation of results at its Harrisburg office this week, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service reports that both the number of bidders and acres fell slightly short of the March tally. The number of acres accepted should be much higher this time, however, since the bids are more in line with what USDA is willing to pay, says ASCS conservation program specialist, Richard Pennay.

The goal of CRP is to take the nation's most highly erodible land out of production. Acres qualifying must be planted to trees or other permanent vegetative cover and cannot be used for hay production

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New Technologies To Increase Milk Production

BY SUZANNE KEENE

LANCASTER — Until now, most of the increases in milk production have been attributed to advances in management, genetics and sire proofing. But now, new

technologies that can produce dramatic increases in production are coming to the forefront.

Among those new technologies is bovine somatotropin, which can produce results that would take

years of skilled breeding and continued advances in nutrition and management to achieve, Dr. William Chalupa, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, said at a veterinary nutrition forum in Lancaster Wednesday.

Studies have shown that bovine somatotropin, or bovine growth hormone, can increase milk production anywhere from 10 to 40 percent, Chalupa said.

Reports of increased milk production resulting from somatotropin date back to the 1930s, but it has been only in the last four or five years that the product has been the subject of intensive research efforts. Chalupa was part of one such study done at the University of Pennsylvania.

In that study, injections of somatotropin were started between day 28 and 35 of the lactation and continued through day 305. The study showed an average increase of 6.6 kilos of fat corrected milk or a 27 percent increase in milk

production.

In a similar study at Cornell University, cows were injected with somatotropin starting at day 84 of the lactation and continuing for 180 days. This study showed an average of 9.4 more kilos of milk per day for a 34 percent increase in milk production.

The animal's production potential may have an effect on response to somatotropin, Chalupa said. The cows in the Cornell study had a slightly higher production potential and "the responses, in fact, were a little bit greater," he noted.

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Farm and Home Scholarship Winners

BY SALLY BAIR

Lancaster County Correspondent
LANCASTER — Fourteen \$1,000 scholarships were presented to local high school seniors by the Lancaster County Farm and Home Foundation this week.

The scholarships were awarded to five students planning to major in agriculture, four planning to major in home economics and five planning to become nurses.

Money for the agriculture and home economics scholarships is provided by the Elmer Esben-shade trust fund, established at the time of the organization of the Foundation. Nursing scholarship

money is provided by the Foundation. Recipients are selected on the basis of financial need, scholarship and leadership.

Conestoga Valley High School was represented by four recipients and J.P. McCaskey and Lancaster Mennonite had two each. The remainder of the seniors were from other county schools.

Those who will major in home economics include:

Melissa K. Snader, 18, is the daughter of Estella Snader, 140 Ronks Road, Ronks. A senior at Conestoga Valley High School, she will attend Messiah College and

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Many parts of Lancaster Farming Territory received much needed rain this week so the growing corn at the corner of Hagars and Lime Valley Roads should be a few inches taller by now. The trees and the bank barn and silo frame a nice scene looking south of Strasburg. Photo by Everett Newswanger, Managing Editor.

BY EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

ITHACA, NEW YORK—"Because people don't know about agriculture, they cause problems," said Betty Wolanyk, Extension Associate Cornell University. These problems show up in the voting booth and in the fewer number of students enrolled in agricultural courses. While agribusiness has demand for 60 thousand people in related jobs we have a short fall of 13 thousand people each year. Speaking on the subject, "Ag in the Classroom", Wolanyk asked the question, "Why don't people understand agriculture?"

"In 1930 ag illustrations were used in textbooks. But writers today don't have an agricultural background so they don't use these examples. Whether it's math or science, ag illustrations are not used or are used with facts that are not relevant to today's agriculture," Wolanyk said. "In addition, commercials use animated scenes and historical type people. Society has a problem

of stereo typing farmers. The farmer is wrongly portrayed as either stupid or he's rich or he's probably poisoning the public with chemicals."

The ag in a classroom program is trying to change these attitudes by teaching elementary children where food comes from. "It's easier to create attitudes than to change them," Wolanyk said. Ag in the classroom is a concentrated effort. Examples like one drug in four that is used in medicine has a farm product as a base. One in 52 people is a farmer. Examples of how ag uses life cycles or how ag interrupts life cycles can be used as examples in science.

"We want to use agriculture as an environment for teaching. Teachers like the idea and have responded enthusiastically to the first news releases about the program. Agriculture has been important to history as well as technology. The teachers can use this material to make the classroom more interesting for the students," Wolanyk said.

Holiday Notice

The Lancaster Farming editorial and advertising offices will be closed on Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day.