

Pennsylvania Farm Women Gather In York For Annual Spring Rally

BY JOYCE BUPP
York County Correspondent
YORK — A proclamation, Pennsylvania praises, a salute to a far-sighted farm wife, and a lively, yellow-feathered chicken combined for a diverse program at the Farm Women's Spring Rally.

Some 1,050 Pennsylvania Society of Farm Women members from across the state gathered at York Fairgrounds' Memorial Hall May 28 for their annual spring meeting, hosted by York County's 35 Farm Women societies.

Saluting the community and civic contributions of the societies,

County Commissioner Bill McKinley presented a special proclamation, honoring the day as York County Farm Women Day.

Featured speaker was radio-newspaper journalist Pete Wambach, sometimes dubbed "Mr. Pennsylvania," or Pennsylvania's goodwill ambassador. Wambach's upbeat presentation praised the beauties and accomplishments of the Keystone commonwealth.

On hand to offer a few praises of her own was 94-year-old Mabel Rishel, founder of the York County Society of Farm Women. Mrs.

Rishel's cheerful, often humorous outlook on life has made her something of a legend in her own time among Farm Women. She won a spontaneous standing ovation and thundering applause with her reminder to remember state Farm Women founder Flora Black.

Farm Women gatherings generally suffer no lack of humor along with the serious side of the programs, and the Spring Rally

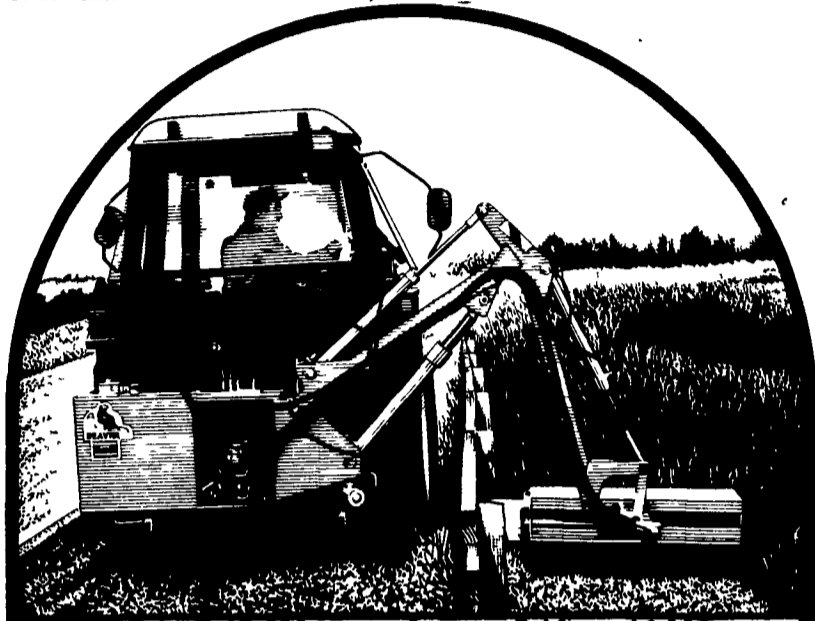
afternoon session was no exception. The large group erupted with laughter when a perky, yellow-feathered chicken danced onto the stage.

The cheery chicken — alias local entertainer Trudy Edleblute — was on hand to pay lighthearted tribute to former state Farm Women president Martee Mentzer.

A former Cumberland County poultry producer, Mrs. Mentzer started a tradition when, in 1963, she related her first chicken joke

during a state Farm Women meeting. Her reputation ever since for chicken jokes has in turn resulted in a houseful of chicken "collectibles." After clucking, scratching and "laying" several eggs on a nest on stage, the Spring Rally chicken visitor presented Mrs. Mentzer with a gilded egg for her collection.

Headlining the afternoon session was musical soloist Christopher Quigley.



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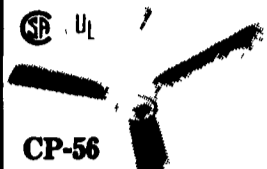
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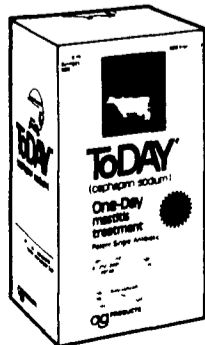
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