

York Farm Tour Slated

BY JOYCE BUPP

York County Correspondent
WELLSVILLE — Three Washington Township farm operations are gearing up to host hundreds of urban visitors June 21, as part of the annual York Farmers Association Farm Tour.

The traditional hay ride which participants have come to expect will take visitors to see a country butcher shop, fruit and vegetable production operation, and a dairy farm.

Other farm tour planned attractions include a petting zoo, sheep shearing, and farm food and crafts.

Headquarters for the tour, which runs from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m., is at Anderson's Meat Market, located on the Wellsville-Kralltown Road. From there, wagons will make stops at the Harold and Evelyn Nelson fruit and vegetable operation and the Ralph and Ada McGregor dairy farm.

John and Viola Anderson own and operate the family's farm and butchering business, just west of Wellsville. As a youngster, Anderson had often accompanied his

father, C.H. Anderson, as he supervised butchering for neighbors and friends.

In 1958, his goal of retailing through his own shop was reached, when Anderson's Quality Meat Market opened on the farm. A noted specialty of the market is scrapple still made by "Grandpa" C.H. Anderson's recipe, while another customer favorite is the all-beef, homemade bologna.

About 20 head each of hogs and cattle are utilized by the market weekly, including Hereford and Holstein cattle fattened on the farm. In addition to the feedlot cattle, the farm produces corn, wheat, oats and mixed hay on the 143 owned and 80 rented acres.

Sons Jimmie and Charles, daughter Barbara and her husband, and five grandchildren all assist in running the Anderson farm and retail market. A third son, John, Jr., was killed in Vietnam in May, 1968.

Roadside marketing of fruits and vegetables, plus the retailing of beef by halves and quarters, keeps Harold and Evelyn Nelson busy year-round at their 35 acres on Wellsville Road.

This three-generation farm was purchased in 1907, by Joseph Nelson. He in turn sold in 1929 to his son George, who at 80 years of age still helps part time.

Pick-your-own strawberries and raspberries are early summer headliners, with cantaloupe production taking over in August. Greenhouse seeding of their own plants gives the Nelsons a head start on cantaloupe plantings, as well as tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, sweet potatoes and lima beans.

Two of the Nelsons six children are still at home on the farm, sixth-grader Jodi and first-grader Gregory.

Ralph and Ada McGregor milk a herd of 200 Holsteins at their McRal dairy farm on Bentz Mill Road. They purchased their original 119 acre farm in 1965, and milked a herd of 48 cows. A new free-stall facility was built in 1972 and 185 acres added with land purchases in 1976 and 1982.

Corn, hay, barley and oats are

grown on the owned, plus 300 rented, acreage, and utilized as feed for the dairy herd, 180 replacement heifers and 30 steers.

The McGregor's five daughters are all involved in the dairy operation. Ila is a teacher, Jill has a degree in Dairy Science, and Mira, Lin and Kae attend Dover Area Schools.

Milk produced at McRal is marketed through Interstate Milk Producers Cooperative, and McGregor is president of the co-op's local district.

PAFC Announces Conference

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives is holding its 13th annual PAFC Couples Conference July 16-18 at the Sheraton in Danville.

"Cooperatives: A Bridge To Your Future" is the theme for the three-day event, which reaches approximately 45 couples each year.

The educational program is designed to increase cooperative understanding by "exposing couples to their peers as well as representatives of their

cooperatives, such as directors, management and staff," commented PAFC Executive Secretary Kathy E. Gill.

Five couples serve on the program planning committee. "The program obtains much of its direction from input derived from these past participants," Gill said.

For the 1986 program, these include Eric and Dixie Coolidge of Wellsboro; Brian and Janet Beckman of Harbor Creek; David and Barbara Kehr of Littlestown; Roy and Sue Crow of Kennedyville, Md.; and Daryl and Linda Heisey of Rexville, NY.

Registration for the conference is \$285 per couple and covers the cost of hotel, meals and conference materials. For registration information, contact PAFC, P.O. Box 12107, Harrisburg, PA 17108-2107, 717-232-7232.

The Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives is a trade association representing more than 40 agricultural cooperatives that operate in the Commonwealth. More than 200,000 owner-members control these businesses, which generate more than \$3 billion in economic activity in the Commonwealth each year.

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