

# Dean Hood Visits Lanc. Farming Territory

LANCASTER/YORK — Dr. Lamartine F. Hood, dean of Penn State College of Agriculture, and Mrs. Hood spent most of Tuesday visiting some Lancaster county farms to get a down-to-earth feel for the concerns of farmers in relation to Penn State's programs of education and research. In the evening Dr. Hood spoke before a crowd of about 75 invited guests at the York County 4-H Center. The guests represented business leaders, farmers, bankers, legislators, county commissioners and community leaders from Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon and York counties.

Dr. Hood said that farmers are facing new challenges that are similar to those faced by the steel

and coal industry over the past two decades. "Change is always difficult to comprehend and the adjustments are usually painful," Dr. Hood said. "Agriculture in the United States and in Pennsylvania has been experiencing some of these changes today. And the situation is getting the attention of our leaders and the media. The problem this time is not just foreign competition," he said. "The problem is much more complex and involves the world economy falling land prices, interest rates and the national deficit, shifty markets, surpluses, tight budgets, and even changes in the nutritional habits of the nation."

Hood pointed out that agriculture in Pennsylvania, like

across the country, is under financial pressure. Pennsylvania farmers are, however, in a better fiscal position than many of their counterparts in other parts of the United States.

Hood said one reason we are better off is the kind of cooperative effort we have among our volunteers, commissioners, legislators, Extension staff and Penn State.

"Public investment in science, education and research must be continued," he said. "It will take all of these elements to insure the future food supply of Pennsylvania and the nation." Hood stressed the importance of state funding to research and Extension programs in Pennsylvania.

"We cannot afford to be short sighted because we are well fed

today or because some of our farmers have over-extended themselves. We will continue to need good people to work the land and the agricultural system to assure the nation's productivity.

"Our productivity capacity is directly related to a system of advanced science and technology and an Extension system to disseminate this information in a useful and practical manner. No other nation has made this commitment, and no other nation can compare with our ability to produce food and fiber," he con-

cluded.

In the Lancaster county farm tour Dr. and Mrs. Hood along with Gary R. Peterson, assistant to the dean, and James J. McKeen, assistant director of the southeast region of the Cooperative Extension Service, were guests of county agent Jay Erwin. The farms visited included: the John Landis Farm, Pennsylvania State University Research Farm, the Leroy Esbenshade Farm, the Glenn G. Martin Farm, and the Samuel B. Lapp Farm. The noon lunch was served at Kreider Farm Restaurant.

## PFA Establishes Charitable Foundation For Farmers

CAMP HILL — A charitable foundation dedicated to a better future for agriculture has been established by the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA).

The Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture has been incorporated as a nonprofit corporation and is prepared to accept tax-deductible contributions.

Joseph Johns of Davidsville, Somerset County, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Agriculture, said, "We're now in position to start building the foundation into an important tool for educational, scientific and charitable programs to strengthen agriculture. Plans are being laid to kick off a statewide fundraising campaign later this year."

The Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture will give concerned citizens an opportunity to financially support programs designed to benefit agriculture. Those programs will include preservation of farmland, market research and development, consumer education, environmental improvement, tax reform, agricultural scholarships and

youth education.

Johns said, "Agriculture provides our food, and for over one million Pennsylvanians living on farms and in towns and cities, it's the source of our livelihood. Farming, its supporting services and related agribusinesses, comprise Pennsylvania's leading industry — a \$30 billion business. But without programs for the future, the continued strength of farming as the base of this vital economic force cannot be taken for granted. That's why we hope farmers, businessmen and citizens will support the efforts of the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture."

In addition to Johns the foundation board of directors includes: Dr. Robert Marshak, Vice Chairman; Richard W. Newpher, Secretary/Treasurer; Dr. Ralph E. Bartholomew, Kenneth Boyer, Dean Carey, Richard Croner, Arthur Davis, Richard E. Denison, D. Eugene Gayman, Harlan Fricke, Penrose Hallowell, Dr. Lamortine Hood, James J. McCracken, Art Smith, W. Dixon Stroud, Leon Wilkinson.



Lamartine Hood, Penn State dean, visited local farmers Tuesday to get acquainted with production agriculture here. Lancaster Farming's editor, Everett Newswanger, caught up with Dr. Hood and his accompanying visitors at the farm of John Landis.

The photo taken in the milking parlor shows left to right: James McKeen, assistant director southeast region Extension Service; Gary Peterson, assistant to the dean; Dr. Hood; Mrs. Hood; Jay Erwin, Lancaster county agent; and Landis.

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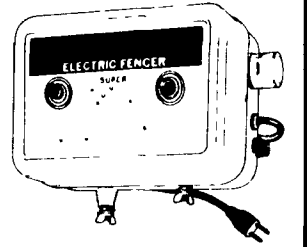
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