# **Farm Aid Meeting Drafts Recommendations**

### **BY JOYCE BUPP**

York County Correspondent YORK - Country singer Willie Nelson's Farm Aid program stirred local interest recently, at a meeting hosted by the York County Farmers Union.

The session, held at the Adams Electric Cooperative offices, focused on an upcoming national conference to draft recommended federal farm policy.

A United Farmer and Rancher

Congress is planned for Sept. 11 to 13 in St. Louis, Mo. Nelson's Farm Aid program has given a \$250,000 grant to help finance that confab. More than 500 local meetings are being held across the country to gather grassroots input and elect delegates to the conference. Ten Pennsylvania local meetings have been held, including four last week in Potter, York, Somerset and **Bedford** counties.

During the York meeting, Thomasville grain farmer Albert Bentz was elected local delegate. Alternate delegate is George Hoke, Jr., of Spring Grove.

Featured during the session was a slide presentation, narrated by Willie Nelson. That program presented a historic perspective of the development of national farm programs and policies, and their relationship to farm income and financial crisis.

Leader and speaker for the meeting was Meshoppen dairy farmer Arden Tewksbury, who is serving as the Pennsylvania coordinator for the Farm Aid-sponsored United Farmer and Rancher Congress.

According to Tewksbury, American farmers are punished for being too productive. And, he says, studies report that some two-

thirds of consumers would be willing to pay higher food prices to help farmers stay in business.

Discussion among the dozen farmers attending the York meeting centered on critical farm issues to be considered by the Farm and Rancher Congress in drawing up farm policy recommendations. Issues addressed include over-production, changes needed in distribution and marketing systems, imbalance and quality problems in imports and exports, lack of cooperation among farm groups, lack of farmer participation in commodity marketing programs, and financial and credit hardships.

Also addressed for policy consideration at the Congress were needs for increased ag education and awareness in elected

representatives and schools, enforcement of quality standards for exported grains and imported products, import limits tied to domestic agriculture economics and the development of industrycontrolled supply-management commodity programs.

Farm organizations supporting the Congress include National Farmers Union, the American Agriculture Movement, the North American Farm Alliance, National Farmers Organization and the National Save the Family Farm Coalition. Farm Bureau, the nation's largest farm organization, has declined support of the conference.

Additional information on the Farm Aid-sponsored conference is available by contacting the York county co-ordinator, Albert Garber, at 792-9400.

## **Dairymen To Discuss Promotion Funds**

WILLIAMSPORT The American Dairy Association and Dairy Council is preparing for its annual series of district meetings which will explain to local dairymen how their funds are being used. The first meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 27 at 7 p.m. at Mifflinburg Community Park for District 19.

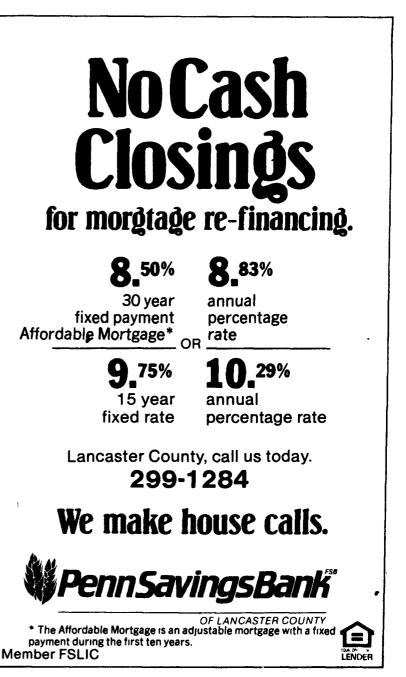
District 19 is directed by Fred Epler from Lewisburg. It covers the counties of Bedford, Blair, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Fulton, Huntington, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Snyder, and Union. All area dairy producers are welcome to attend.

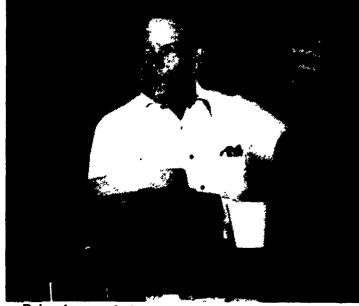
Over 30 percent of Pennsylvania dairy producers are members of ADADC, contributing over \$2.4 million to the program each year. This meeting will review how these promotion funds are used to promote milk in the Pennsylvania area. ADADC's activities include TV, radio and billboard advertising as well as promotions in supermarkets and restaurants.

The meeting will include a complementary chicken barbeque, with milk and ice cream included. Everyone is requested to bring a dish to pass and table service. Reservations are necessary.

Reservations and tickets can be obtained by contacting the following district committeemen:

Fred Epler, Lewisberg, 717-524-9708; John Walter, Lewisberg, 717-523-6315; James Sanders, Millmont, 717-922-1218; David Dietrich, Mifflinberg, 717-966-2438; Robert Pardoe, Milton, 717-524-7625; Leon Musser, Lewisberg, 717-524-4361; and Theodore Shuck, Mifflinberg, 717-966-2053.





Dairy farmer Arden Tewksbury is co-ordinating Pennsylvania's imput for the upcoming United Farmer and Rancher Congress, sponsored by country singer Willie Nelson's Farm Aid.



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