

Columbia Co. Farmer Empathizes With Drought Victims

BY HELEN KEICHNER

Columbia Co. Staff Correspondent

While Pennsylvania farmers were experiencing generous shower activity in the north central part of the state, Duane Shuman of Mainville, Columbia County imagined himself in the shoes of Southeastern farmers who were in the midst of a record drought.

His concern culminated in 8,000 bales of donated hay!

By way of the local radio station, newspaper and Columbia County Conservation Office, Shuman got his message around to farmers from three counties for surplus hay. About 75 farmers donated anywhere from a pick-up truck load to five farmers who each donated an entire trailer load.

Shuman's Millville farm seemed to generate the most dropoffs, but there were various other locations throughout Columbia County where large pick-ups were made.

Haylift '86, a farmer to farmer "bale-out," was hailed a resounding success in this area.

Shuman couldn't believe the response. When he launched his appeal, he hoped for two or three loads. As it turned out, he expects 10 large trailer loads or 8,000 bales.

The first three loads with 800 bales each pulled out of the Shuman farm on August 8. Five days later, two more loads were sent out and the end of the week, two vans loaded up. There's a couple thousand more bales to go.

The Virginia Dept. of Agriculture provided transportation.

The latest pick up was by two vans donated by Virginia Power Co. each with a capacity of 500 bales.

The response has given this farming community an emotional boost. Hap Schatz, a Mt. Pleasant Twp. farmer said, "Columbia County farmers have problems, but it doesn't prevent them from lending a hand."

Many of the farmers contributing hauled their loads in that first day and just stayed to help load the trailers. They worked hard, but had a good time. Shuman was impressed in more ways than

with quantity at the results of his appeal.

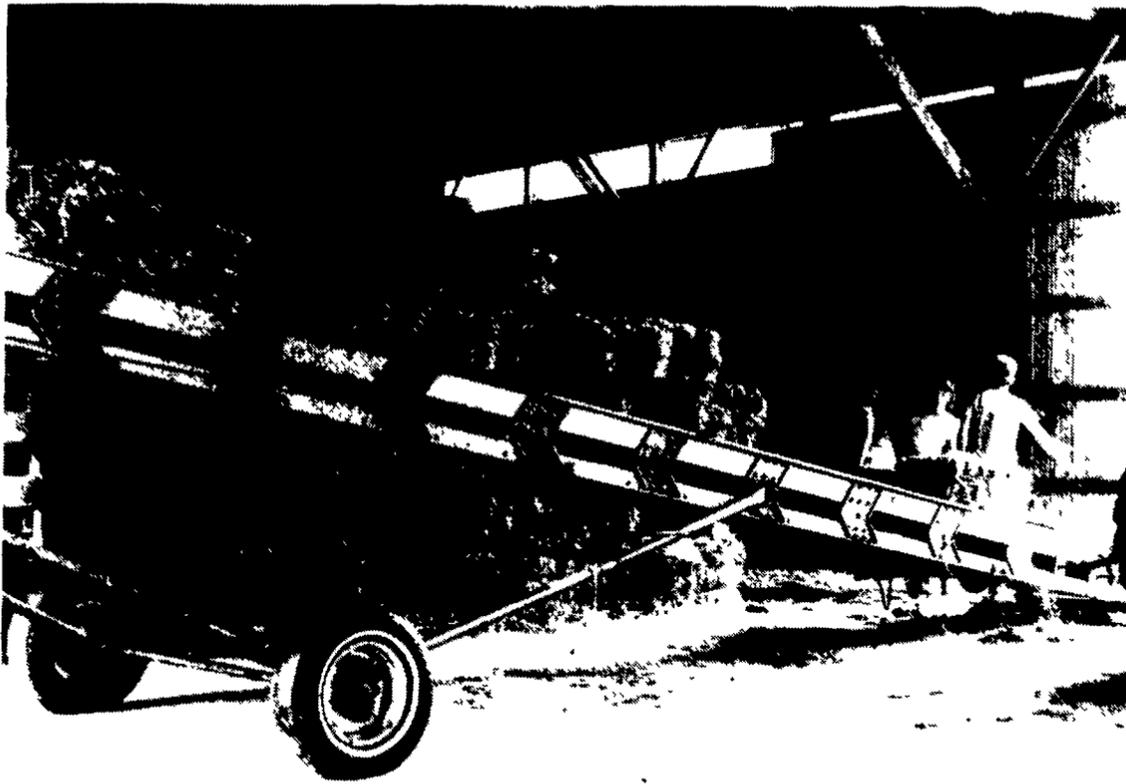
Schatz didn't have any hay to donate, so he provided 30 lbs. of ground beef for more than a dozen hungry workers. Shuman's wife Betty along with another contributor's wife, Eva Esslinger made up barbeque and provided pastries and cold drinks.

Dick White, agricultural extension agent from Brunswick County, Virginia was on hand to witness the haylift. He said the first load would be dumped in his county and parceled out to other areas. Some Virginia farmers like Joe Hamelin who accompanied the trucks to Pennsylvania said he can't wait for the help. He has little feed left for his cattle.

Another farmer, Billy Temple, said he won't take any of the hay. He said others need it more than he. With what he has left over from previous seasons, he'll get along by cutting back his herd. Temple came to Pennsylvania just to meet their benefactors.

Bob Houston, Columbia County Extension Agent expressed surprise at the amount of hay donated. "We're overwhelmed by the turnout," he said.

Contributions came from Columbia, Montour and Luzerne Counties.



Hay was stored at Duane Shuman's farm where it was loaded with the help of a conveyor. Tracy Martenas, Betty Shuman and John Esslinger load the conveyor. Duane Shuman is out of sight and Irvin and Dale Martenas are on the receiving end in the van.

Spencer Wins

Dairy Award

The first annual American Cyanamid Company Dairy Science Award was presented to Stephen B. Spencer, an extension specialist of Pennsylvania State University, for his contributions to improving the efficiency of dairy products.

The award was presented at the American Dairy Science Association's annual meeting at Davis, California by David S. Walton, marketing manager for bovine somatotropin at Cyanamid's Agricultural Division.

"Spencer's technical expertise and enthusiasm for communicating his knowledge makes him a very appropriate choice for the first American Cyanamid Dairy Science Award," said Mr. Walton. "He has provided producers with more efficient milking systems, improved milking techniques, and better milk quality and mastitis control."

Spencer has been active in many professional associations including ADSA, the International Association of Milk, Food and Environmental Sanitarians, and the National Mastitis Council.

American Cyanamid established the Dairy Science Award to recognize "significant contributions in research, teaching, extension, and/or industry (including technology transfer) in the assimilation of new milk production technologies." The award carries a \$1,500 stipend. Selections are made by ADSA.

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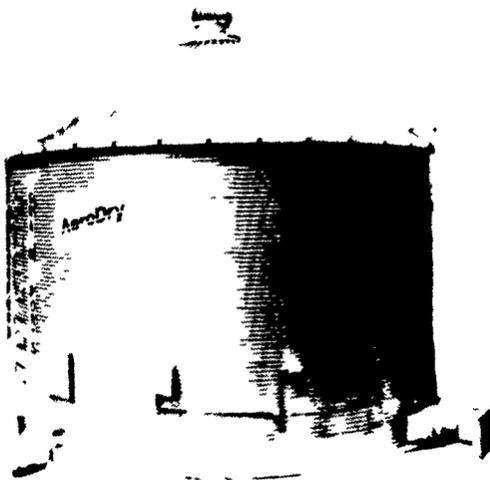
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