

Lycoming County Farmers Assoc. Discuss Proposals

COGAN STATION — An explanation of upcoming proposals to be voted on by PFA delegates by Richard Barto, state director, election of officers and directors, and a vote on policies recommended by the PFA policy development committee, comprised the annual meeting of the Lycoming County Farmers' Association held Oct. 6 at the Lycova Grange, Cogan Station.

Barto discussed proposals that will be up for vote at the annual PFA convention in Hershey Nov. 17 to 19. He said although PFA brought in a balanced budget for the next year, starting the following July they will be running at a deficit unless they find a way to increase funds. It was suggested they increase dues. The proposal to be voted on is whether to raise dues at \$8 per year for the next three years. Currently dues are \$55 per year.

Another issue involved associate membership. Presently, according to Barto, associate membership (people not actually farmers but associated with farming) is limited to 10 percent of total PFA membership. Delegate members will be voting on whether to keep associate membership at 10 percent, increase it to 25 percent, or allow an unlimited number of associate members.

Barto noted that associate members are better informed about agricultural concerns since they receive the same information provided all PFA members. However, they do not vote.

On the other hand, Barto acknowledged the possibility that PFA might eventually allow associate members to vote. This might possibly weaken the in-

fluence of PFA in the legislative realm, since many lawmakers ask PFA's opinion about what's really happening on the farm scene.

"It is a serious decision to be made," Barto stated, adding that he wasn't sure what the impact would be if more associate members were allowed.

Officers elected for the coming terms were Ed Snook, Jersey Shore, president; and Larry Fry, Muncy, vice-president. Philip Ulmer, Steve Artley, and Edward Frantz were chosen as board directors for the coming year.

Two of the 11 policies recommended by the policy development committee provoked lively discussion. One policy recommended that to be eligible for any government program, the person should be making 50 percent of his taxable income from farming.

Some members argued this would hurt farmers operating under a 50/50 lease. Others wondered what would happen to the farmer employed outside the farm who makes just one dollar more from outside employment. The recommendation was passed with 23 consenting and seven dissenting votes.

Another recommendation suggested that the regulations and liabilities of volunteer fire companies be lessened. It was in response to a recent law which states that an emergency trained technician must be on board an ambulance when responding to an emergency. According to members, some volunteer fire companies are experiencing difficulty getting enough EMT's to be on call when needed. The recommendation passed with a 9 to 5 vote.

Other recommendations passed were as follows: Concerning the Chesapeake Bay cleanup there was a recommendation to educate farmers as to the proper handling of manure and fertilizer. It was suggested that milk be served to pupils at lunch from automatic milk dispensers instead of using paper cartons because students would drink more and the cost would be less.

It was recommended that PFA should submit a list of employees and amount of wages each receives to all county boards and the state fair board should set aside money for youth shows. Concerning PACMA and all other PFA service, it was suggested that if they are running at a deficit after a 3-year period, the service or

program be dropped.

The recommendation was passed that any person receiving low interest loans to start a business and then discontinuing the business should have to pay the loan back immediately or pay the present prime interest rate.

Concerning insurance liability suits the following recommendation was made:

- a. use the present insurance company guidelines as a ceiling for pain and suffering award,
- b. a maximum ceiling on pain and suffering and accidental death of \$1 million dollars,
- c. sliding scale for attorney fees,
- d. eliminate double recovery,
- e. evaluate patients' condition periodically, f. installment payments are preferable to a lump sum.

Lastly, the recommendation was

passed that because of health concerns, where the state requires the disposal of livestock, that such disposal of animals be administered on premises wherever possible and at the very least be done within the township.

In other business Eugene Fields, ROD, recognized outgoing president LaRue Bay with an award for his services and also presented special awards to Helen Barto, Nancy Snook, Larry Fry, Richard Barto, Dan Ulmer, Dawn Fry, and Ed Snook.

Mr. Donald Shafer, Farm Management Business Analysis Service Supervisor, gave a brief talk on how the changing tax laws would affect members. Mr. Charles T. Kindlimann, paramedic, gave a short discussion on farm safety.



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Hessian Fly Problems

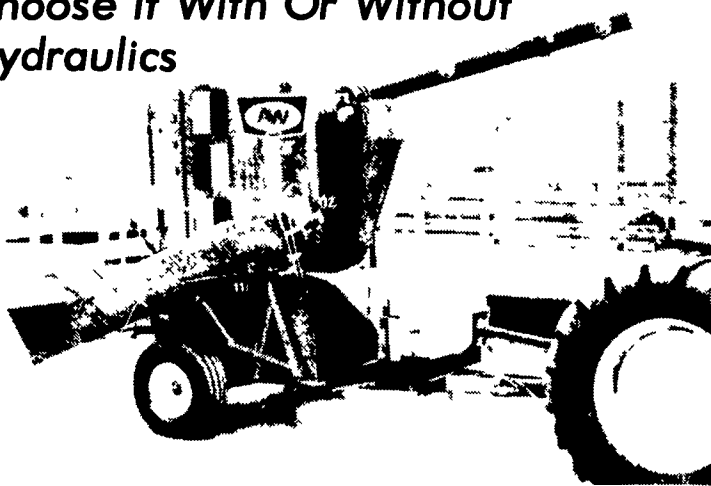
The Hessian fly is the most serious insect pest of wheat in Pennsylvania. In some years, losses have been worth several million dollars. Most of these losses can be prevented by planting after the "fly-free date" or using the newly-developed fly-resistant varieties of wheat.

Normally, there are two broods of Hessian flies that attack the same crop of wheat. One appears in the early autumn and the other in the spring. The flies of the autumn brood, which die within a week, lay eggs on the leaves of the young wheat plants, these hatch into maggots that find their way to the base of the leaves on the tillers. In a short time they complete their development and change to pupae or "flaxseeds" to pass the winter. In the spring, flies emerge from these "flaxseeds" and again eggs are laid on the leaves. The ensuing maggots work their way down the leaf and under the sheath to near the node where they complete their development and change to "flaxseeds".

Maggots injure wheat in three ways: by removing plant fluids; by producing poisons which stunt plants; and by weakening stems and causing them to fall over. Wheat is the primary host but barley and rye are occasionally attacked.

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