

Vegetable Plot Makes \$20,000

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steps are taken to relieve the plants of stress from drought, insects and disease. "When you make the investment, you need to guarantee yourself a crop," Robinson said. "And water is often the limiting factor. Even with a good amount of rainfall this year, I turned on the Trickle irrigation system one, two or even three times a week when we have had a very hot, windy day. In addition, you save a lot of water. You keep the water off the foliage to reduce the chance of fungus disease. And you have the opportunity to run a small amount of fertilizer through the irrigation system right to the point where the plant can use it. The fertilizer application is limited to what the plant can use. So you don't in any way pollute the underground streams. That's really a key advantage to this system," Robinson said.

The vegetable test plot visited by the FMC tour group is located beside the Leola Produce Auction. As part of the education tour, the farmers were on hand to see how this auction, owned by a farm cooperative, handled the days operation. Oglie explained that the vegetable industry has grown quite rapidly so that by now these kind of produce auctions are in operation in three other counties also.

At the Leola facilities, farmers bring their produce in to be sold to the highest bidder. About 600 regular producer growers bring their vegetables to the auction. Additional farmers who sometimes

bring vegetables to market increase the total farm patronage to about 1,000 farmers. Buyers come from about a 35-mile radius to buy for their roadside stands, market stands and small supermarkets.

"We look at this vegetable business as having a strong impact on our local economy," Oglie said. "It is especially appealing to farmers who want a labor intensive crop but are discouraged with the tobacco market."

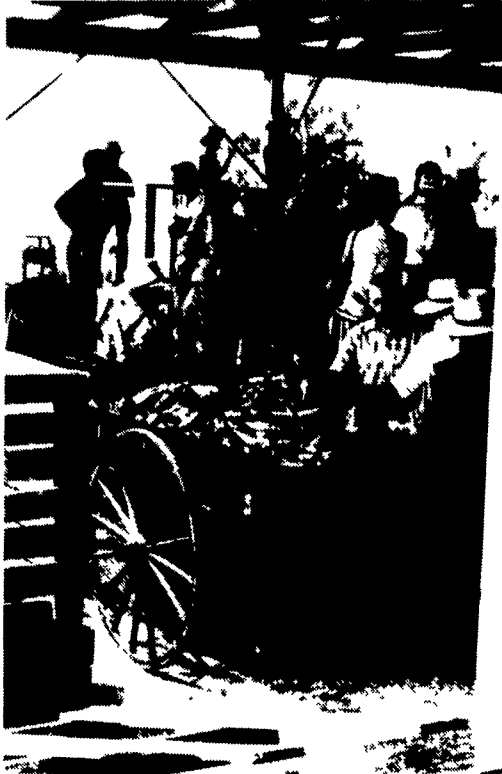
These vegetables growers also provide new opportunities for agribusiness to develop new business for supplies to this industry. While the auction provides a means to bring buyer and farmer together, the vo-ag instructors also use the operation to educate farmers on how to prepare and present their produce so it satisfies the buyer and brings a top price.

One day each week the instructors set up a table to display properly-cut bunched and packaged produce. Sometimes they will show a comparison of a high-selling and low-selling lot. A buyer may be called on to tell why he was willing to pay more for one lot over another. "The buyers want the produce ready to sell without further processing," Oglie said. "He will pay more if the farmer has properly cleaned and prepared his produce. The culls should be discarded and a lot should be uniform and free from defect."

FMC served a full-course meal at noon. In the afternoon, the tour visited alfalfa, corn and soybean plots.



A wagon load of cantaloupes under the gavel of Paul Hurst, auctioneer at the Leola Produce Auction.



Horses and market wagons; steel-wheeled tractors with farm wagons; pick-up trucks; horse teams with farm wagons all get in line to go past the auctioneer.



Next in line.

\$100 Million Bond Issue

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ties would receive money on a \$4-to-\$1 basis.

Although easements could be written for as little as 25 years, Morris said the program would contain a strong bias for protecting land for perpetuity. Landowners selling easements for less than perpetuity would be eligible for only 10 percent of the true easement

value.

While acknowledging that the bond issue is a good start, Rep. Morris pointed out that the one-time \$100 million appropriation undoubtedly won't be enough to protect an adequate amount of farmland. "We can probably spend the whole \$100 million in three years," he estimated. "Then we might have to come back for more."

Congressional Hearing Set

WASHINGTON, DC — Congressman Bill Goodling (PA-19), member of the House Education and Labor Committee, announced today that the Subcommittee on Labor Standards will hold an official oversight hearing on Monday, July 13 in Biglerville. The hearing will deal with aspects of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act.

"This hearing will give both farmers and workers an opportunity to take their cases directly to Congress. There are several issues that have divided these two groups and it is my hope that this hearing will be a step toward solving some of those problems," Goodling stated.

The hearing will deal specifically

ly with Section 504 of the Act. This section gives migrant workers who feel they have had their rights violated the right to file claims against farmers. The statute provides these workers with certain labor and housing protections. Recently, farmers have alleged the Legal Services Corporation and others representing workers have used the law to harass them.

The hearing will be held in the auditorium at Biglerville High School on North Main Avenue in Biglerville. It will begin at 10:30 a.m. and conclude by 12:00 noon. Local farmers, migrant workers and their representatives, and Congressional officials are expected to testify. The hearing will be open to the public and press.



A time to talk harvest.



Part of the group of about 100 farmers that participated in the FMC Field Day Thursday examine the vegetable test plots near the Leola Produce Auction.