

Association Urges Crop Improvement

BY BONNIE BRECHBILL
Franklin Co. Correspondent
GREENCASTLE — The Franklin County Crop Improvement Association held its sixth annual meeting January 7 at Gibble's Restaurant. Wayne Kuhns, president of the association, conducted the proceedings.

Kuhns expressed appreciation to three retiring board members for their years of service. All had served two full three-year terms. Ken Schoenberg, Shippensburg, was the first president of the association, a position he held for three years. He was also a charter member of the state crop management board for three years. Nelson Wengert, Chambersburg, also a charter member of the state board, served the local group as secretary for four years and as treasurer for two years. John Martin, Chambersburg, was treasurer for four years.

William Swailes, Willow Hill, PA Crop Management Association Director, reported on a meeting he had attended in State College. Swailes, who is on a committee to draw up priorities for funds earmarked for the state's fourteen

crop management associations, listed the actions that will be taken if the total \$317,000 is received.

1. Have an expenses-paid coordinator.
2. Have an assistant to the coordinator to promote establishment for more crop improvement associations.
3. Give seed money to new associations.
4. Develop a way to receive payment for the crop information regularly fed by the local associations to Penn State for their research.
5. Hire graduate students in soil fertility, ag engineering, etc. to work for the crop management associations.
6. Hire a crop management specialist.
7. Finance student internships. Five academic credits would be available to students who work during the summer with a crop management association.

Martin Krone, senior technician of the Franklin County group, reported that the association had a good year, with a 20 percent increase in acreage over the first quarter of 1987. Current acreage is 12,600 acres on 61 member farms.

"Our stable membership is a plus," he added, "and the association is financially stable." He expressed appreciation to extension agent John Shearer for helping to promote this "unique service that no one else in the area can offer." He urged members to use their "talents and abilities to increase our membership and help other counties to increase theirs." Krone has been a technician in Franklin County for four years.

Troy Vanderau, a technician with two and a half years of service in the county, told the 105 people present that he "welcomes their comments and responses" so that the program can be tailored to each farm.

In closing the business portion of the meeting, Kuhns stated that the Franklin County association is the largest of the fourteen crop management associations in the state. "We're an alive group of productive young farmers," he said. "Use all the services to the best advantage you can."



Newly elected to the Franklin County Crop Improvement Association's board of directors for three year terms were, left, Harold Hoffeditz, Mercersburg; Roger Negley, Mercersburg; and Carl Wenger, Pleasant Hill.

He encouraged members to make their farms as productive as possible. "God has blessed us with the abilities to develop the earth He gave us," he concluded.

Entertainment for the evening

was provided by Ken and Lib Beaver, nature photographers, with a slide, music and narrative presentation entitled, "Nature's Gay Jewelry."

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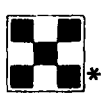
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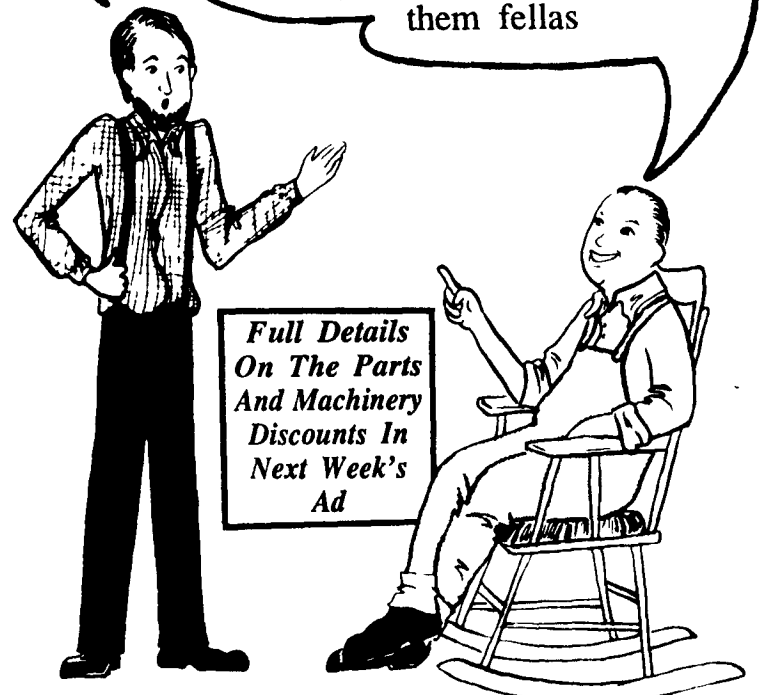
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