

# Franklin County Farmer Vies For Seat As Representative

BY BONNIE BRECHBILL  
Franklin Co. Correspondent  
ST. THOMAS — A Franklin County farmer has declared his candidacy for a seat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. C. Eugene Wingert, 52, operates a 500-acre hog and beef farm in St. Thomas. A lifelong county resident, Wingert served as regional director for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for eight years during the Thornburgh administration. He also is a past director of the Agriculture Department's Bureau of Planning and Research, and past president of the Southcentral Pennsylvania Pork

Producer's Association. He currently serves on the Executive Committee of the National Pork Producer's Council Board of Directors.

The 90th District House seat for which Wingert, a Republican, is running is currently held by State Representative Terry Punt, R-Waynesboro. Representative Punt is running for the 33rd Senate District seat held by Senator William Moore, R-New Bloomfield, who is retiring at the end of the year. The 90th district includes Washington, Quincy, Antrim, Montgomery, Peters, St. Thomas and Warren



C. Eugene Wingert

townships and the boroughs of Mont Alto, Waynesboro, Greencastle, and Mercersburg in Franklin County. Three rural townships in Fulton County — Thompson, Belfast, and Ayr — are also included in the district.

Issues of concern to Wingert are

farmland preservation, tort reform and liability insurance. "We're suing everybody for everything today," he said.

One of Wingert's major concerns is farm-city relationships. "It's important that we have a legislator there who understands agriculture and understands the urban side. How agriculture gets along with their urban friends will be very important," he said.

After serving for eight years under the Thornburgh administration, Wingert feels he has insight into the workings of state government. He has worked with all eight south central Pennsylvania counties. "I have a good handle on agriculture, and I have administrative experience," he stated.

The candidate is currently in the process of opening campaign headquarters in Waynesboro.

"Support has been tremendous, and there have been lots of volunteers," Wingert said, "especially from rural areas." Gerald Reichard, a vo-ag teacher from Waynesboro, is campaign manager. Wingert plans to contact all the registered voters in the district—approximately 50,000—through mailings, meetings, receptions and door-to-door visitations.

Wingert, who is campaigning full time, is finding the campaign challenging. "It's interesting. You have to like people," he said.

Wingert will face three other Republicans in the April 26 primary. A Democrat is also seeking the seat.

Wingert and his wife, Betty, have three grown children, Carol, Teresa and Jere. Jere and a hired man are operating the family farm while Wingert campaigns.

## Atlantic Juniata Local To Meet

SOUTHAMPTON — The Juniata Local of Atlantic Dairy Cooperative District 18 will hold its annual dinner meeting March 3 at 7 p.m. at Zimmies Diner,

Mifflintown.

Glenn Love, Juniata Local president, will conduct the meeting.

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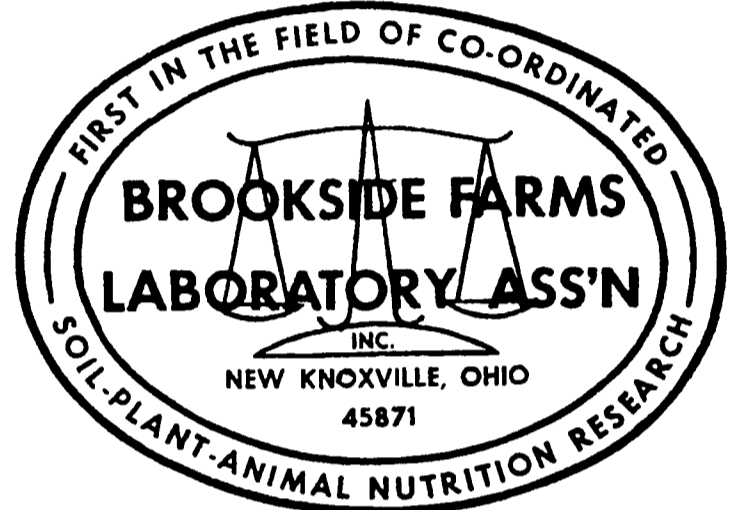
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