

# Huntingdon County Farmers

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states."

Espy and the county committee would like to see the state pay up to 30 percent of total losses on all crops, including vegetables, based on current market prices. The group would like to see such a program be administered by local ASCS offices.

On the federal level, the committee called for:

► Full payment of the 1987 deficiency payment for corn, which was set for October 1. Originally, plans called for doling out \$.46 on the bushel if no advanced payments were received. That figure is based on the price of corn and has dropped accordingly to \$.30 on the bushel.

► Deferral of reimbursement on the 1988 advance deficiency payment. (According to Espy, this is now in the works.)

► Setting a date for the 1989 Wheat/Feed Grain Program by November 1 with a guarantee that farmers would not have to pay back the advance payment. In addition, disaster counties should be allowed to harvest set-aside acres and grow non-program crops on set-aside acres.

If the government doesn't take this action, grain surpluses could reach previous levels, according to Espy. "With the price of corn so high no one will sign up and they'll go fence row to fence row (when they plant) and we'll be back where we were five years ago in terms of surplus," said Espy.

► Administration of state or federal programs or both to be handled on a grassroots level to ensure fairness.

► Disaster payments set by the county ASCS committee instead of based on county crop averages.

Richard Pennay, program specialist with the state ASCS office, attended the meeting and discussed programs currently available to Pennsylvania farmers.

The 200,000 acres out of production under the land set-aside program have been released until December 31 for haying and grazing. (See section D page 13 for story.) In addition, the 10-year Conservation Reserve Program acres, which are to prevent erosion and protect wildlife, can be harvested for a 30-day period.

The Emergency Feed Program, which pays 50 percent of feed costs, not to exceed \$.05 per

pound, is currently in effect. It is available to farmers with an actual or estimated 40 percent loss of 1988 crop production. It is for almost all livestock that have been on the farm at least three months with some poultry eligible even if they've not been on the farm three months. Another federal relief program is the Emergency Livestock Feed Assistance Program, which makes the government's surplus grain available to the farmer at 75 percent of the county loan rate. Each farmer can get 10 pounds per animal unit per day. To be eligible for this program, farmers must have a 40 percent crop loss and have insufficient feed for his breeding livestock. The length of time that the farmer will receive aid between June 1, 1988, and May 31, 1989, is determined by the county ASCS office. "What we're doing is trying to compensate producers during the crop year," explained Pennay.

Some grain is not yet in storage or distribution equipment not available in all counties, but Pennay predicts that this will be rectified soon. "The county ASCS offices will advise farmers when CCC grain is available."

The Emergency Feed Program and Emergency Livestock Feed Assistance Program will be administered at the county level.

"The problem with the Assistance program is that it only can be used by people with a foundation herd," stated Espy. A foundation herd includes breeding stock and dairy cattle. "I'm their (foundation herd farmers) market, but I can't get corn, so I don't want their animals because I can't feed them. So what good does it do to protect their breeding stock. I won't buy feeder animals because I didn't get the same consideration."

Espy and his committee are calling for farmers to contact their state and federal representatives to make their opinions known.

Pennay reported that the USDA State Emergency Board met with members of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency on July 7 to discuss the state's drought situation. "The group asked the emergency boards at the county level to do a damage assessment report on the drought and turn the findings in by July 21," Pennay said. The reports, which are already coming into the state ASCS office, are based on current or estimated losses as a result of the drought. Once the reports are examined, the USDA State Emergency Board will consider them and turn them over to the state Emergency Management Agency for state action.

## Lebanon County Holstein Club News

This year's sale is at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 25th. Selections are now being made. Contact Connie Hoffer or Sonny Bomgardner. Requirements are the same as last year. Commission is 10%. Juniors get 5% off the selling price.

County show is Friday, August 5th. Judge will be Genie Francisco. Field Day is at Raymond Getz's

on Elco Drive just east of Elco School on Thursday, August 11th at 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be John Frye.

Annual Banquet is Tuesday, October 25th at Zoar's in Mt. Zion. Speaker is Karl Kettering. Ticket price is \$7.

Please mark these dates as there will be no further notices mailed on these events.

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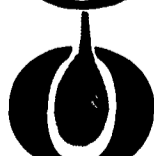
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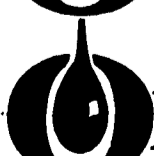
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