

Lancaster Farming

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Egg Marketing Association Pushes For Action On Egg Check-Off

BY LOU ANN GOOD

LANCASTER — While egg prices have risen recently, producers and marketers have not forgotten the economic crisis that earmarked their industry during the last two years. Then higher national production combined with declining per capita consumption pushed producer prices downward.

On Wednesday, at the Quality Inn, Lancaster, the PA Egg Marketing Association studied steps to initiate an egg marketing order.

John Hoffman, executive director of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation, told the members that 14 years ago, a study for a state check off was initiated. Since then, there have been numerous studies that show support for the checkoff.

"Additional studies are a waste of money and time," he said. "I'd like to get 12 guys, tops in the industry, who must write a proposal before they are allowed to leave the room. If we can't get these 12

guys to agree, nothing is ever going to happen and we might as well drop it now and quit wasting our time."

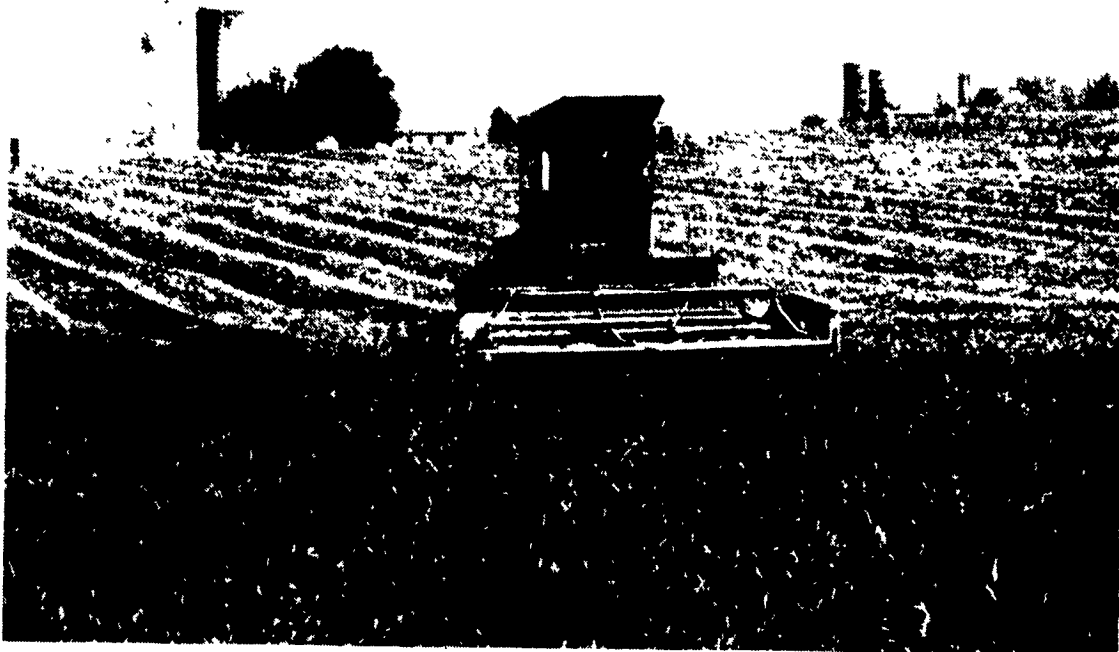
In response to Hoffman's suggestion, the association decided to forego additional studies and rely upon the survey currently being done by the Lancaster County Poultry Association in cooperation with Penn State University.

Although that is a nationwide survey, the association intends to extract the necessary information to determine county responses.

A summary from the national survey taken in December showed that Pennsylvania producers are less supportive of a marketing order than producers in other states. Regardless, 54 percent of state producers felt some action necessary.

"It may be," Hoffman said, "that a marketing order will not materialize. But it's time to determine which way we are going instead of

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Harvesting Rye

LANCASTER—Rye was harvested this week on Running Springs Farm at the corner of Village and Mentzer roads near the Lampeter Fair Grounds. Heavy rains here over last weekend kept farmers out of the fields early in the week. In addition, Ascension Day, a religious holiday for many of the plain people on Thursday, kept their teams of horses and steel-wheeled tractors out of the fields. But by the end of the week, spring planting was nearly completed, corn planting was a major activity and a lot of rye was on the ground, waiting to be made into silage.

John Harnish was in the driver's seat when Managing Editor Everett Newswanger stopped to take the picture.

Tax Reform Referendum — Get All The Facts

BY PAT PURCELL

EPHRATA — Should you vote "yes" or "no" on the local tax reform referendum appearing on the May 16 primary ballot?

Only the voter can make that decision. But the best decision is always an informed one. And critics and supporters of the tax reform proposal are offering their services with the goal of gathering

votes for their cause. Probably no other proposal in the Commonwealth's history has initiated such heated debates.

The public is invited to attend an informational forum on the tax reform proposal. The meeting is being sponsored by the Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee on Thursday, May 11, 7:30 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center, Arcadia

Road in Lancaster.

Gordon Hoover, president of the Lancaster County Farmers Association will be serving on the panel along with Edgar Long, legislative

chairman of the Centerville Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons; Thomas T. Baldrige, vice president of Government and Public Affairs of the

Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Cheryl Desmond, president of the League of Women Voters of Lancaster

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Safety Measures To Follow

Pesticide Use Can Be Hazardous To Your Health

BY LISA RISSER

Farming is one of the most, if not the most, dangerous of occupations. Spring is particularly dangerous as farmers prepare their fields and plant their crops.

One area to which many farmers don't pay enough attention in terms of safety is pesticide usage. They often don't take time to read the label's safety precautions, couldn't be bothered with protective clothing, and disregard cleaning and storage recommendations. These are the farmers who become poisoned.

Pesticide poisoning often goes unnoticed or is rationalized away because the symptoms of low-dosage poisonings are fairly generic. "Unless farmers were really exposed to a pesticide, they wouldn't recognize or admit that they were poisoned," said Win Hock, professor of plant pathology and pesticide coordinator of Penn State's pesticide education prog-

ram. "Most farmers would handle pesticides, feel sick, then go home at the end of the day and go to bed. Because they are no longer exposed to the pesticides, the symptoms go away."

Until the next time. Receiving low doses of pesticide poisoning over many years is called chronic exposure, and is potentially as dangerous as acute exposure. "The long-term exposure is a big mystery," Hock explained. "It's a big concern because we don't know what will happen from long-term exposure. We don't know if it causes cancer; we don't know if it causes reproductive problems in males; we don't know its effects on pregnant women. There are studies to suggest a relationship between the chemicals and cancer."

"When we tell farmers to wear protective clothing, we're saying you may get nailed if you're not careful."

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BY KARL BERGER
Special Correspondent

EPHRATA — The people who promote dairy products think many of the people who actually sell them could be doing a better job.

For more than 15 years, as various advertising campaigns have come and gone, they've taught the grocery store employees who manage dairy sales the best ways to store, stock and sell dairy products

through a day-long seminar, the "Dairy Department Management Workshop."

The workshop program has proven to be popular in the Mid-Atlantic area and a way for farmer-funded promotion groups to increase their influence with local food retailers, according to Dick Norton, manager of the Middle Atlantic Milk Marketing Agency.

MAMMA, which promotes milk in the Federal Order 4 market,

is a member of the American Dairy Association, the national group that developed the workshop's basic guidelines. Together with their counterparts at the Syracuse, N.Y.-based American Dairy Association and Dairy Council Inc., and the Columbus, Ohio-based Mid-East United Dairy Industry Association, MAMMA staffers conduct management workshops for grocery store personnel across

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Ag Classes Near Capacity

Manheim Central Rebuilds Ag Ed Program

BY PAT PURCELL

MANHEIM (Lancaster) — Debbie Seibert didn't need a national study to tell her the future of vocational agriculture was hanging by a slender thread when she began her new teaching position at Manheim Central in July 1985.

Four students were enrolled in her freshman class for the 1985-86 school year. Enrollment in the entire program was 38 in the ag program with another 50 enrolled

in the small gas engines and gardening class. Seibert knew she had a one-year position if she didn't get enrollment numbers up, immediately.

The vo ag program reflected the changing community from which Manheim Central draws its students. The countryside surrounding the high school in northwestern Lancaster County has changed drastically over the past 20 years. As development devoured farms, fewer students needed a production-oriented vo ag program, because fewer students were returning to the farms after graduation. The vocational agriculture

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