

Farmers Hold Monthly Meeting

WEST CHESTER, (Chester Co.) — Chester/Delaware Farmer's Association Directors, at their monthly meeting held recently in West Chester, heard reports, planned for farmers policy development and continued stream monitoring programs for farmers.

Harold Bryson, Oxford, reported that Marjorie Kraus of Algal Research Center, Landenberg, has been retained as environmental and water quality consultant for Association members. Association members who have questions about their water quality or are being harassed for alleged stream pollution should contact the Algal Research Center or their nearest Director.

Directors voted to support House Bill 2336, sponsored by Congressman Richard Schulze. Robert Lange, West Chester, explained that, "the purpose of the bill is to reduce estate taxes on the transfer of farm property within a family. The estate tax would be reduced to zero over a 30-year period. The special exception would apply in a 50-mile radius of a major city area."

"We need the support of the Pennsylvania Farmer's Association, the American Farm Bureau

Federation, other state and local organizations. Only by making other congressmen aware of the problem, can we secure support. The adoption of the bill will make it possible for farm land to stay in farming. The land will not need to be sold piecemeal to pay inflated estate taxes caused by development in urban areas", Lange stated. It is expected that Arlen Specter will sponsor similar legislation in the Senate.

"Township Policy Development chairmen should reserve 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, August 9 in Honeybrook for their organization meeting," Elmer Mast, Parkersburg, Chairman, said. "It is important that all Farmer's Association members participate. Policy statements reflect issues at the county, state and national levels. Issues such as eminent domain, zoning, reduction in real estate taxes, and protection of private property — can all be presented and discussed at the policy development meetings." It was suggested that perhaps an open meeting be held to invite in other groups that are concerned with agriculture such as supervisors, fire companies, extension, fish and game clubs.

Tim Hihn, Avondale, said that a

committee of mushroom farmers had been picked to work with the Pennsylvania Farmer's Association for the creation of a statewide mushroom commodity committee. Since mushroom farmers are nationwide, this could evolve into a national committee of the American Farm Bureau Federation. The three members named are Mike Pia, Pete Alonzo and Steve Vincenti.

Ed Kuncle, PFA Regional Organization Director announced a regional District Directors meeting for August 8, 7:00 p.m. at Gilbertsville Fire Hall. Legislative up-date meeting will be held Monday, August 7 at Yoders in New Holland. He said that 124 guests from nine counties attended the Ladies Day Out at the Red Rose Inn in Jennersville.

Kuncle said that horse farmers may want to support state legislature bill HR 1381. If passed, this would exempt the equine industry from sales tax on their supplies and

maintenance materials.

"Farm-City Day is set for Saturday, November 11", Linda Hicks, West Chester, Chairperson told the Directors. "Farms will be grouped in the Southwestern portion of the County. Included will be dairy, beef, and mushroom farms."

The Annual Meeting and dinner is to be held Thursday, September 28; stated Charles Moore, Cochranville, meeting Chairman. Election of Directors and voting on proposed policy will be conducted, he said.

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By Sam Stoltzfus



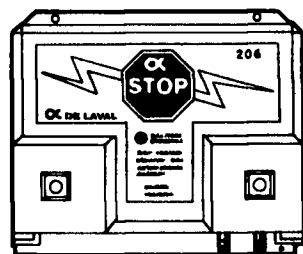
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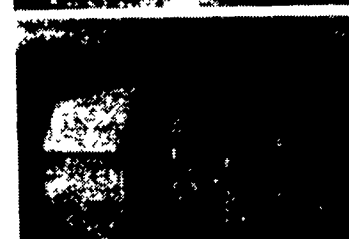
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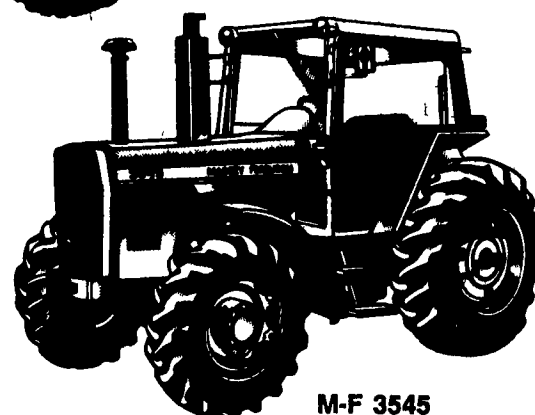
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