



# Farm Women Societies

## Lancaster Society 34

Lancaster Farm Women Society #34 met on January 5, at the home of Sheila Mull with Debbie Kreider serving as co-hostess. The evening was spent going over by-laws, playing games, and fellow-

shipping together. The chance-off was won by Debbie Hershberger. The next meeting will be held at the home of Debbie Mellinger. The program will be a speaker from Lancaster General Hospital.

## Berks Society 3

The Society of Farm Women of Berks County, Group 3, held its January meeting at the home of Mary Hill, Boyertown. Joan Loeb presided over the business meeting. Eleven members attended.

Group 3 received an invitation to the 25th anniversary of Group 5 on March 13. Members will assist

with bingo at Berks Heim on April 5. Lora Oswald gave a report on the state convention in Harrisburg.

Following the business meeting, the constitution and by-laws of the society were read. Hostess for the February meeting will be Mary Bartholomew.

BRADSHAW, NE — Elaine Stuhr is a partner in a family farm operation near Bradshaw, Nebraska. She and her husband, Boyd, have been farming for thirty years and are primarily grain producers raising irrigated corn, grain sorghum and soybeans. They are the parents of three grown children, Cynthia Hendricks, Teresa Robbins and Boyd Jr. and have one granddaughter, Cally Hendricks. In 1978 the Stuhr family was selected as the "Nebraska Honor Farm Family" by the Lincoln Journal and Star.

Elaine has been actively involved in Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) since 1977 when she was elected as the first president of York County WIFE. She has served as national corresponding secretary; the first editor of WIFeline; 1981 national convention chairman; national education chairman; co-chairman of the national ethanol convoy and conference; president of the foundation for agricultural education and development and national first vice president. She is a past president of Nebraska WIFE.

Stuhr has a degree in education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She taught high school and served as an assistant instruc-

tor in education and family resources at UNL. Elaine has been actively involved in her community and has been a spokesperson for agriculture in her state. She was appointed to the Nebraska Corn Development, Utilization and Marketing Board by the governor; has served on advisory committees for NE Ag in the Classroom

## 4-H Ambassador At Ag Week Banquet

CLAYTON, N.J. — Gloucester County's Miss 4-H Ambassador, Tammy Huber of Williamstown, represented the county on Tuesday, January 23 at the annual Agricultural Week Banquet at Bally's Park Place in Atlantic City.

Tammy, a senior at Williamstown High School, won the title of Miss 4-H Ambassador at last July's 4-H Fair. She earned her

position as key ambassador on her speaking ability and outstanding 4-H record. A 4-H ambassador is an older member who is selected to represent Gloucester County 4-H throughout the year. Ambassadors have special responsibilities at county 4-H events, and help promote 4-H by speaking to outside groups.

## Beef Club Elects 1990 Officers

SHIPPENSBURG (Franklin Co.) — On January 18, 1990 the Franklin County 4-H Beef Club had their first meeting of the year with election of officers.

Elected president was Nicole Lebo, daughter of Leon and Judy Lebo. Nicole is a junior at Greencastle Antrim High School.

Daughters of Carl and Dorothy Eshleman also took offices. Trina, a senior at Greencastle Antrim

High School, was elected vice president. Elected secretary was Karen, a sophomore at Greencastle Antrim High School. Kristina was elected treasurer, a sophomore at Greencastle Antrim High School.

Leon Lebo is acting as Club leader along with his daughter, Regina. Those interested in joining the Beef Club, contact Leon Lebo, 567-2618.

## Causes And Corrections Of Septic System Failures

GUY TEMPLE  
Union Co. Extension Agent

LEWISBURG (Union Co.) — In recent weeks we have had a number of calls from rural residents concerning problems with septic systems. Some are from recent arrivals to the countryside and raised questions about how waste is handled and treated. Others had systems that had been in use for many years and they were questioning how long the systems would continue to function.

Until recent years many of our state officials assumed that septic systems were only a temporary system until the time when all would be served by some type of central sewer system. In recent years the viewpoint has changed and it is assumed that septic systems are a permanent installation, because there is just not enough money to run collection systems to all the countryside.

Septic tank-soil absorption systems have long been the conventional method of wastewater treatment in rural areas. In most cases these systems provide adequate solids removal in the septic tank as well as treatment and disposal of the effluent in the soil absorption field. However, there are times when these systems fail. A failure may cause sewage to back up into the house or come to the surface of the ground. Partially treated wastewater may also enter ground or surface waters, or into your own on-or well or spring water system.

No matter what the cause, septic system failure is a nuisance and a health hazard which should be corrected as soon as possible. Failures of on-site septic systems often can be attributed to one or several causes. Trained sewage enforcement officers (SEO's) should assist in diagnosing the problem and make recommendations and prepare the permit for corrective action. Call your local municipal officials to find out who the SEO is for your township or borough.

Hydraulic overload is one of the most common reasons for failure of the sub-surface absorption system. It occurs when too much wastewater is delivered to the soil absorption system. The sewage then can only come to the surface or back up into the house. In addition, soil saturated with wastewater will not allow the passage of oxygen into the soil. Under these anaerobic soil conditions, clogging of the soil absorption field is accelerated.

Hydraulic overload often stems from a change in the water-using habits in the household, such as when the family size increases or a new-water using appliance is added. New systems may fail within a few months if water use exceeds the system capacity to absorb effluent. Hydraulic overload also occurs when the drain field is inundated with excessive surface or groundwater.

Driving heavy equipment, constructing paved areas, or building over septic systems can crush or shift lines and compact the soil. Problems can occur also when lines freeze or become clogged with tree roots. Septic systems seldom freeze but this can happen during a cold winter with no insulating snow or when the system sits idle for an extended period of time during the winter.

Soil absorption systems are designed based on the results of a soil percolation test and a soil profile evaluation. The soil percolation rate indicates how much water the soil can absorb in a given amount of time, and the soil profile evalua-

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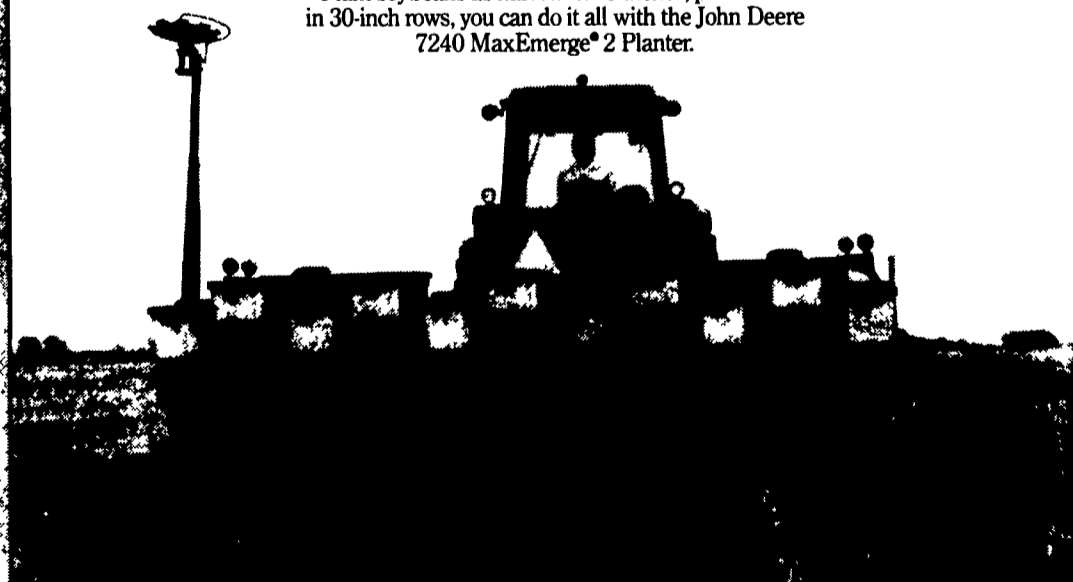
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