

# Farming Grows In Southeast Pa.

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be used for farming purposes. Through recent initiatives, Pennsylvania has taken important steps to protect farmland in rapidly growing areas. To help farmers survive the pressures of development, farmland preservation programs must be complemented by efforts to enhance the profitability of farming.

A more detailed report of this five-county study may be found in the March/April issue of "Farm Economics," entitled, "Helping Farmers Survive the Pressures of Development." This publication is available through county extension offices.

## Farmers Home Administration Committee Election

The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) is accepting nominations for the Allentown Area County Committee, serving Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe and Northampton counties. Eligible voters may nominate candidates by petition. Copies of the petition and instructions on its completion can be obtained from the FmHA Office, Lehigh County Agricultural Center, Suite 107, 4184 Dorney Park Road, Allentown, PA 18104.

Persons nominated should have an interest in a farm as an owner, tenant, or sharecropper within the area in which activities of the committee are carried out. They must be citizens of the United States or aliens lawfully admitted

to the United States for permanent residence, and be well qualified for committee work.

Spouses of those persons who meet the eligibility criteria are also eligible for nomination for election to the county committee. Return petitions to the FmHA office no later than May 22, 1990. FmHA committee elections are open to all eligible voters without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, political affiliation, marital status, sex, or handicap.

## National Milk Marketing Hearings

Secretary Clayton Yeutter recently announced that the United States Department of Agriculture will hold national hearings on possible changes in the pricing provisions of federal milk marketing orders.

In recent years, the milk order program has come under increasing criticism. Many believe that the program's pricing arrangements do not treat dairy farmers in all areas of the country fairly, according to Yeutter.

The federal orders set minimum prices that milk processors must pay for Grade A milk received from dairy farmers, based on the way the milk is used. The highest price is paid for milk used for drinking (Class I). Milk in "soft" products such as cottage cheese, yogurt, and ice cream (Class II) is priced lower. A still lower price

applies to milk used in "hard" products such as butter, hard cheeses, and nonfat dry milk (Class III). A few orders price both soft and hard manufactured products at the same level.

Yeutter says some of the criticism arises because important elements of the orders have not been reviewed at a public hearing for many years, and changed marketing conditions may warrant updating them.

Recent studies by the Government's General Accounting Office and USDA's Economic Research Service recommend a comprehensive review of the pricing provisions through a national hearing process so that the order program will continue to serve the best interests of dairy farmers and the general public.

The public hearings will cover milk order issues that are national in scope. These include, but will not necessarily be limited to, the following: Class I price differentials, the possible use of multiple base points for setting Class I differentials, Class II price differentials, and the pricing of reconstituted milk.

The hearings will provide all interested parties (including dairy farmers, their cooperatives, milk processors, and consumers) with the opportunity to present information on the proposals under consideration.

Interested parties must submit

proposals to be considered for inclusion in a notice of hearing no later than May 31 to Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456.

Following those submissions, USDA will issue a hearing notice announcing the time and place of

the hearings and the proposals that will be considered. It is anticipated that the hearings will be held in several regions throughout the country, including the central United States, the Upper Midwest, the Northeast, the Southeast, the Southwest, and the West. The first session could begin in early September.

## 'Lamb — Red Meat For '90s' Theme Of Festival

WEST FRIENDSHIP, Md. — "Lamb — the lean red meat for the '90s" will be the theme of the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival on May 5 and 6 at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

Lamb will be featured in a variety of ways at the festival. There will be four different lamb cooking demonstrations and free lamb samples will be handed out.

At least a half dozen concessions will offer lamb cooked in a variety of ways. Festival goers will also have the opportunity to purchase different cuts of fresh Maryland lamb to take home or, if they desire, to make arrangements to purchase a half or a whole lamb.

The Maryland Grand Lamb

Cook-Off will feature 10 finalists (recipes are submitted prior to the cook-off) who will prepare the lamb recipes for a panel of three judges. The winner of the cook-off will receive \$150. The second runner up will receive \$125, third place \$100, fourth place \$75, and fifth place \$50.

The 10 recipes from the contest plus lamb recipes from prior cook-off contests will be available to the public.

The festival features more than 200 craft booths, sheep dog demonstrations, shearing contests, musical entertainment, and many other activities. Admission and parking are free. For further information, call Mary Streaker, (301) 823-4037.

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