

Heifers Fly To Egypt As Part Of Project

Harrisburg, (Dauphin Co.) — Last week, 88 heifers and six bulls flew from Harrisburg Airport to Cairo, Egypt, to be provided to poor farm families in the central area of that country.

This shipment is the third in a series that has spanned more than a decade of cooperation between the Evangelical Coptic Church of Egypt and churches in the United States, through Heifer Project International.

The cattle will spend a short quarantine time in Cairo, and then be moved to a farm operated by the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS) in the center of the country, near Minia. From there heifers will be distributed to farmers who have been trained in the care of dairy cattle, and who have prepared

facilities for the animal.

Pure bred bulls produced in the project will be further distributed to rural communities, to be used for cross breeding with local cattle, in order to improve milk production in those communities.

Milk products are an important component of the Egyptian diet, especially for children. However, production is not keeping pace with the rapidly growing population and demand for dairy products. Since Egypt has a very small band of arable land (only about 5% of the total land area of the country is suitable for crop production), the most effective way to increase the availability of milk and milk products is to increase the productivity of the dairy cattle.

Crossbred dairy cattle have

been shown to do very well under small farm conditions, producing 3 to 5 times the amount of milk as local cattle, while consuming only 20 percent to 30 percent more feed. The program of CEOSS will not only provide improved cattle, as a result of this shipment, but CEOSS staff will train recipients in the care and feeding of the cattle, and will provide follow-up contact with participating farmers.

All programs supported by Heifer Project International adhere to the principle of "Passing on the Gift." When a family receives an animal, they agree to pass on the first offspring of the same sex to another needy family. In this way, the gift is multiplied through offspring, and the project continues to grow with each passing year.

Heifer Project International (HPI) was founded in 1944, when the first shipment of cattle was sent to Puerto Rico. Many boatloads of cattle were sent to Europe as part of the war reconstruction effort. By 1950, the program had expanded to include all food, fiber and traction animals, such as

goats, chickens, sheep, bees and oxen. In many cases, HPI is able to purchase animals within the project area, and often uses indigenous animals, such as water buffalo, yaks, and alpacas. The goal of the project is to assist people who want to produce their own food, using livestock that are appropriate to the situation.

Extension To Celebrate Birthday

NAZARETH (Northampton Co.) — Penn State Cooperative Extension in Northampton County will celebrate its 75th anniversary with special events planned during 1992.

They are very interested in presenting a history of cooperative extension and would like to speak with those who were a part of the

extension program 10, 20, or even 50 or more years ago.

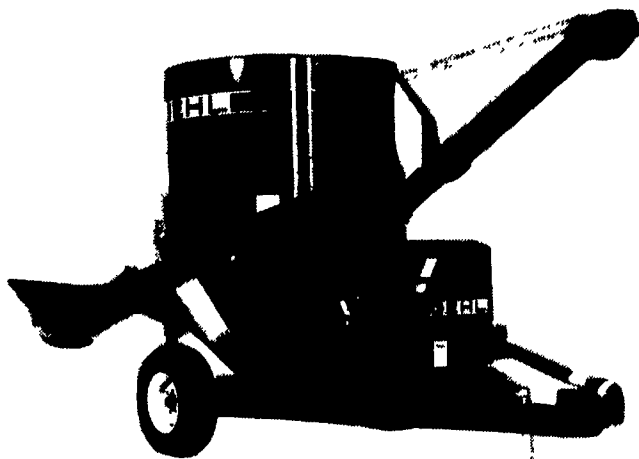
All former agents, staff, and 4-H members who have lost contact with cooperative extension but would like to hear about or be a part of the activities should contact the Northampton office at (215) 746-1970 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or Joan Rohn at (215) 258-5959.



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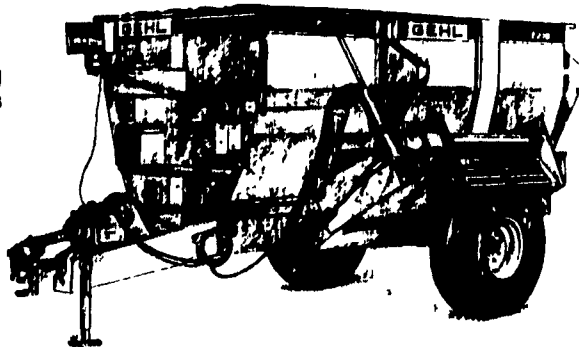


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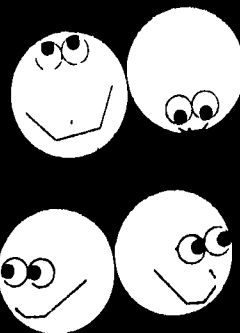
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