

PFA To Host National Young Farmer Conference

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — The Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA) will host American Farm Bureau's annual Young Farmer and Rancher Leadership Conference, Feb. 8-11 in Philadelphia.

PFA is a voluntary, statewide farm organization which represents 23,049 families and is affiliated with the 3.9-million member American Farm Bureau.

A total of 425 young farmers and ranchers aged 30 and under will be attending from 22 states, including 55 members from Pennsylvania. PFA's participants are being sponsored by 27 county farmers' associations.

Boyd Wolff, Pennsylvania's Secretary of Agriculture, and Keith Eckel, president of PFA, will be among the dignitaries welcoming the young farmers and ranchers to Pennsylvania. Also greeting the group will be Mrs. Beth Laughlin of Lewistown, Mifflin County, chairman of PFA's Young Farmer and Rancher Committee.

Mrs. Laughlin, who has attended two previous conferences, described them as mix of information sessions on timely topics and opportunities for interaction with young farmers from across the country. "You learn as much from meeting other people at the conference as you do from the formal sessions," she said. "It's also a great opportunity to improve your confidence in dealing with a group of that size."

U.S. Congressman Fred Grandy (R-Iowa), will address the group's opening banquet, Saturday, Feb. 8. Also scheduled to address the conference is Dean Kleckner, president of American Farm Bureau.

The conference agenda will feature a balance of fun events such as a 50's style American Bandstand dance and a tour of Pennsylvania Dutch Country, plus the following serious topics: representatives from CEJA — the European Young Farmers' Organization, will review their agricultural philosophy and their view of the progress of the GATT negotiations.

Representatives from the Saxony Rural Youth Organization will discuss the changes taking place in German agriculture since reunification.

Dr. Robert Aherin, Agricultural Safety Specialist at the University of Illinois, will discuss what research shows about protecting children from farm accidents.

Lou Sallie, an American Farm Bureau area field service director in the Northeast, will lead a panel discussion on Young Farmer and Rancher ideas which have been successful in other states.

Ann Walsh, director of Action Seminars, Inc., Baton Rouge, LA, will educate participants about how criminals choose victims and what they look for in a target at home, in a car or on the street. She will also discuss how to become less vulnerable, when to fight and when to run.

Tim Buskey, an American Farm Bureau area field service director in the Northeast, and Marleen Bidlack, American Farm Bureau Director of Leadership Development will lead a workshop on improving leadership skills.

Dave Barrett, Counsel of Public Affairs, National Grain and Feed Association, will cover the issue of "When Do You Need Legal Counsel?"

Richard Denison, General Manager of PFA's Members' Service Corporation and manager of PFA's Farm Management Services, will explore the history of farm estate planning, the role that inflation has played in creating estate tax concerns, the tax laws now on the books to help reduce those taxes and the overall objectives a farm family should be

exploring.

Patsy Perkins, American Farm Bureau's Director of Employee and Personal Development, will teach seven basic assertive skills to help participants become better communicators.

John S. Niles, founder and president of Global Telematics, Seattle, WA, will discuss case histories of telecommuting and micro-

enterprises for off-farm income.

Brad Eckart, American Farm Bureau's Director of Political Education, will cover the opportunities for the farm community in the 1992 elections.

Bob Shepard, American Farm Bureau's Director of Human Resources Development, will discuss how official Washington works, thinks and operates.

N.J. Hort Society Honors Growers

CLAYTON, N.J. — The 1992 Outstanding Grower Award was presented to Douglas Zee of Gloucester County at the Tri-State Horticultural Meeting Banquet in Hershey, Pa. recently.

In presenting the award to Zee, Bob Best Jr., president of the New Jersey Horticultural Society, said Zee is being presented this award because of his accomplishments as a grower and marketer of peaches, and his leadership in the Horticultural Society, the fruit industry, and agriculture.

Zee will join the Fruit Growers Hall of Fame and receive lifetime membership and privileges of the

society.

Zee is president of Zee Orchards in Glassboro, N.J. and along with his sons, Doug, Jr., Michael, and Theodore, own and operate 500 acres of peaches, nectarines, and apples in Gloucester County.

Zee, who refers to himself as a peach grower who has apples, has been involved in growing and marketing fruit for 40 years on the Zee family farm. Zee Orchards has been an innovative operation in the utilization of farming practices such as concentrate spraying, integrated pest management, peach variety evaluation and development, and mechanical pruning and

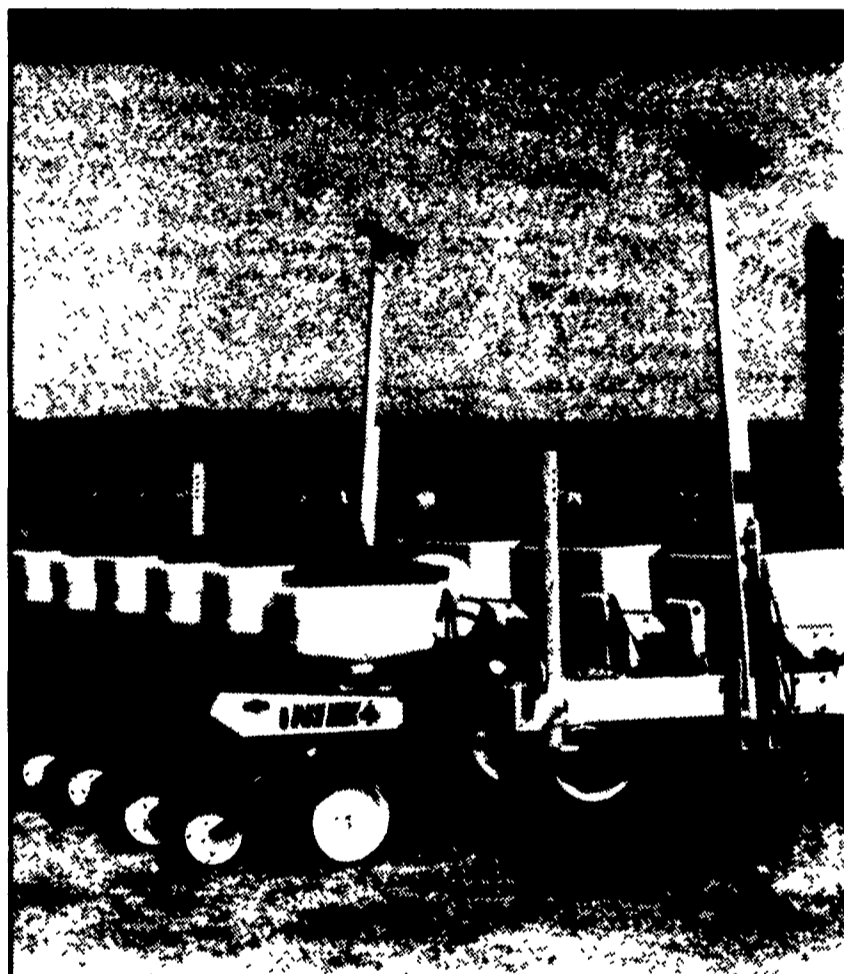
thinning.

Best said, "Doug has excelled in the promotion and marketing of peaches. As a grower who markets all of his own fruit, Doug originated the famous JerZee labels with his colorful boxes and advertising logos. The Zees develop and operate one of New Jersey's most efficient and modern peach packing plants."

Zee was cited for his work with the National Peach Council for 25 years as a director, which culminated in his ascension to the presidency in 1980. He was a longtime director and president of the New Jersey Peach Promotion Council.

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