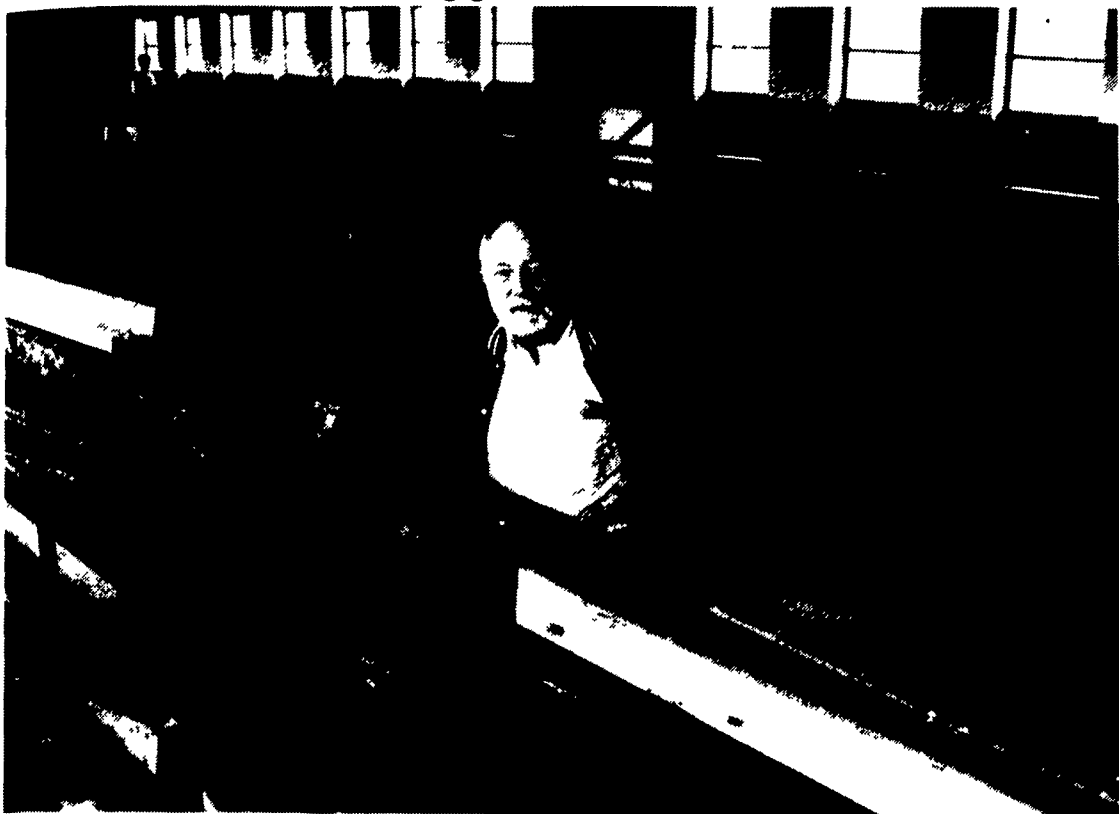


Extension Office Faces Possible Budget Cuts, Closure



C. R. "Bud" Bryan, Delaware County extension director, eyes this location, a converted barn on the Garrett Williamson farm used as a 4-H site, as the soon-to-be home of some of the extension office. This part of the barn is being converted into a teaching area for various 4-H programs. Photo by Andy Andrews.

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
NEWTOWN SQUARE (Delaware Co.) — C. R. "Bud" Bryan reaches down to push the latch that props open the rickety, broken-down screen door at the entrance to a makeshift office. Tattered, used, musty smelling furniture lies about.

And the latch, as much in need of repair as the rest of the office, doesn't hold. Only a small gust of wind is needed to slam the door closed.

Bryan, Delaware County extension director, said the office may be adequate for three people, at most, and some files.

The extension director eyes this location, a converted barn on the Garrett Williamson farm used as a 4-H site, as the soon-to-be home of some of the extension office.

If they still have their jobs.

Because in a few weeks, Bryan has to follow through on the worst-case scenario, a nightmare extension offices in "other" states face: the loss of the extension office location and most of its funding.

On April 10, his office was noti-

fied by the Delaware County Council that, as of July 1, they must vacate the office, located at the Rose Tree Park along Rt. 252, and move everything out. Funding has been cut by 65 percent. Out of a budget of \$150,000 (20 percent of their entire operating budget), the office has been promised only \$50,000 for the entire year.

"We're getting substantial county cuts," said Bryan, sitting in a dilapidated sofa. "We are losing our secretaries, and next year the appropriation, the support from county, will be no more than \$50,000 out of a normal budget of \$150,000."

The county council has elected to cut the money, according to the letter, because of expected financial difficulties through budget year 1993. Substantial decreases in federal and state funding were cited in the letter.

"Penn State will not step in to replace county dollars," said Ted Alter, southeast region extension director. Alter emphasized that the extension system is a partnership of federal, state, and local governments, and "we believe that all three partners ought to be involved."

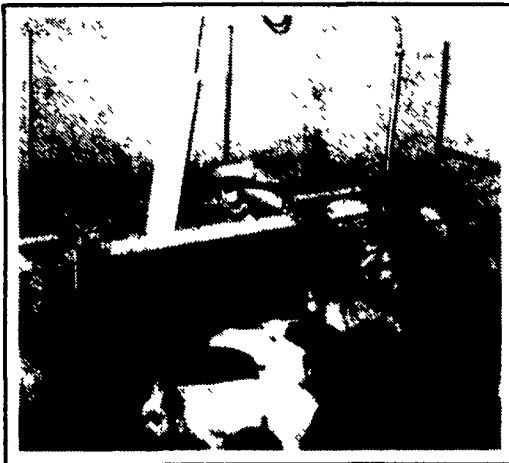
Alter said that the number of county dollars reduced will have a direct effect on the amount appropriated to the county by Penn State. The amount that Penn State will allocate (which was \$402,908 in 1991, or about 55 percent of the county extension's total operating budget) will be reduced accordingly, according to Alter.

However, Alter told *Lancaster Farming* that Penn State's primary

(Turn to Page A22)

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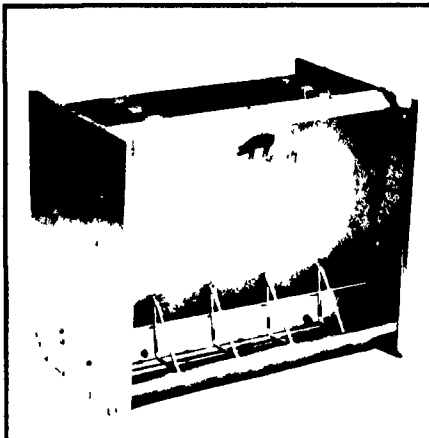


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