

Plans are under way to construct the Romano 4-H Center of Chester County along Rt. 322 north of Guthriesville and just south of Honey Brook. At left is Russell C. Albright, senior loan officer, who helped secure the donated land for the project, with Pat Taws, president of the Chester County 4-H Center, Inc. board of directors.

## New 4-H Center

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The search for the new center, which will cost about \$950,000 when all is tallied, began about 30 years ago. The goal is to raise about \$750,000 through contributions — although private contributions can be made in the form of actual construction material or other methods. According to Walter Wurster, extension dairy agent in last week's Chester County Dairy Milk Lines in *Lancaster Farming*, the plan is to eventually

build two pole buildings, two show rings, and a headquarters office.

The main building will have meeting and banquet space, kitchen, showers, and community facilities. Wurster noted that there is also the possibility to include space for ag-related agencies, and community groups will be able to use the buildings and grounds when there are no 4-H events scheduled.

The site will mirror some of the new buildings housing livestock shows, similar to the one built recently in Lebanon County.

But the Romano 4-H Center was designed specifically to bring together the various roundups in the county, which are split between the Goshen and Kimeron fairs and held at expensive private locations during the year.

Because the 4-H office depends on securing a place to show horses, which costs up to \$1,000 a day to rent space, the new show space is a blessing.

"If we brought it all here and had a four-day 4-H fair weekend, we wouldn't conflict with any other fairs in the county at all," said Cheryl Fairbairn, county livestock agent. "In fact, we don't want to detract from the other fairs. It would just make life so much easier for 4-H families and make a lot more publicity for 4-H."

"Not only that, we want the community to be involved, too," said Pat Taws, president of the board of directors for the Chester County 4-H Center, Inc. "It's not just for us."

In all, there are about 2,577 members and 263 volunteer leaders in the county's 4-H program. According to Wurster, it is visualized that, by 1994, a countywide 4-H roundup, lasting several days, will be held at the site.

Although details of the actual building appearance are being finalized at presstime, the site itself will host two barns for dairy and livestock events, including sheep, goats, and other small animals. The design now will reflect what is in use now at Solanco, for example, with a huge show area in the center, room for tables away from the ring, and then bleacher-type seats surrounding it. "The ring capacity is going to be big," said Fairbairn.

There will also be two outside rings for horse and other events.

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