

Three Mile Island Tours Set For Agriculture

MIDDLETOWN (Dauphin Co.) — The nuclear and agricultural industries are getting better acquainted in central Pennsylvania through open forums sponsored by GPU Nuclear Corporation in Middletown, Dauphin County. The first open forum for agricultural representatives in the five counties surrounding Three Mile Island was held at the nuclear plant in March.

Three Mile Island is surrounded by agriculture. Thousands of farmers live within sight of the cooling towers and the vapor plumes. But in the past TMI has had very few visits, tours or communications with this large group of neighbors. The open forum meeting presented an opportunity for these two very specialized industries to open new lines of communication.

The first forum was attended by nine representatives from the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Emergency Management Offices and the County Cooperative Extensions.

They said that the local farmers are very interested in the implications of any radiological emergency at TMI and they want more information on evacuation, re-entry and how GPUN monitors the environment. They encour-

aged GPU Nuclear to meet with the farmers and their leaders, establish an agricultural liaison and write to Lancaster Farming and other farm publications.

The GPU Nuclear team consisted of Communications and Emergency Preparedness specialists who admitted to knowing little about the agricultural industry.

One of their representatives stated "My home is in the midst of farm land, I drive past farms and fields every day and I use many agricultural products, but I had no idea how complex farming methods are or the important role the farm leaders play. I never heard of the Lancaster Farming newspaper before tonight. It seems we have our distinct professions and lifestyles which just don't interface very often."

The group decided that more meetings should be planned to follow up on the first Open Forum.

TMI will begin meeting with local farm leaders, stay in touch with the agricultural representatives and get to know local farmers through farm tours and visits to TMI. The next open forum will be held July 1 for Dauphin County farm leaders.

The following agricultural representatives attended the forum: Ruth Hagy, Dauphin County ASCS; Jenifer Minnich, Lebanon County ASCS; Jim Welshans, Dauphin County Coop. Ext.; Warren Archibald, Lancaster County SCS; John Schwartz, Lancaster County Coop. Ext.; Randy Gockley, Lancaster County. Emerg. Mgt.; Glenn Kimmel, Cumberland County ASCS; John Metrick, Cumberland County SCS; William Clifton, York County SCS.

If you have any questions about GPU Nuclear or the Open Forum meetings you may call Tom Kauffman at Three Mile Island at 717-948-8738.



Former Somerset Director Receives Gift

SOMERSET (Somerset Co.) — Robert C. Antram, who retired on June 1 as the director of the Somerset County Cooperative Extension Service after 36 productive years of service to the Somerset County agricultural community, received a registered border collie sheepdog as his retirement gift, since he is also a sheep farmer.

The dog, Twill, was trained by Jack Monsour, Bedford, but came originally from Bud Budreau in South Dakota.

Antram was lauded at a celebration on Sunday, June 6 at the Gelger church grove. Several hundred attended. It was planned by the board of directors of the local cooperative extension. Friends, individuals, and businesses financed the purchase of Twill.

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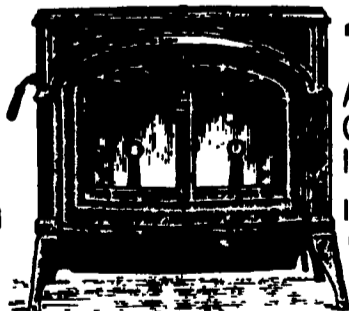


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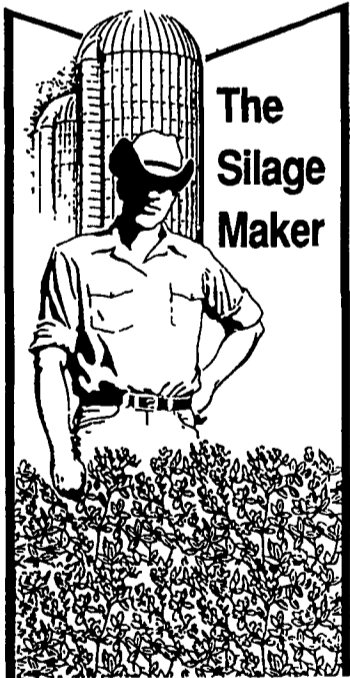
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