

# PFU, NFU Oppose Flex Acre Increases

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — According to U.S. Agricultural Secretary Mike Espy, the average farm household received only \$5,742 in income from farming in 1990.

The National Farmers Union as well as the Pennsylvania Farmers Union supports farm policies that will help family farmers and believe that recent proposals by the House Agricultural Subcommittee will not be the answer in achieving the spending cuts in farm programs required by Congress.

It was recommended that a 5 percent increase in flex acres was one way to achieve most of the cuts. Flex acres represent the percentage of a farmer's crop base which is not eligible for price support deficiency payments.

Increasing flex acres could be devastating for some family farmers.

Large scale farms may have already received as many payments as they can, so reducing acres in a program would have little effect on their income, but for smaller farmers, increasing flex acres means a direct loss of income.

As the bill now moves to the Senate, they need to know there is a better alternative:

Congress should instead raise the Acreage Reduction Program (ARP) requirements by one percent.

According to projections from the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute, increasing ARP levels would result in increases in cash crop and livestock receipts for producers rather than a decrease in cash receipts as would be the case under flex adjustment.

# Retires From Adult Farmer Program

ANDY ANDREWS  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Don Robinson, instructor and leader of the Eastern Lancaster County School District's Adult Farmer Program, will retire from his position at the school after 26 years of service effective July 31.

He will move to replace the Lancaster County Conservation District administrator position when Bob Gregory retires on July 1.

Robinson, a resident of Brownstown, has served the young adult farmer program at the school full-time for 22 years, after teaching in the high school Vo Ag program and heading the young farmer program the first four years.

In his new position, Robinson told *Lancaster Farming*, he will be responsible for the operation of the conservation district and the supervision of the Chesapeake Bay



Don Robinson Program in Lancaster County. Work will involve making sure compliance with erosion and

sedimentation plans are enforced in developed areas, including residential and commercial, and helping farmers implement conservation plans.

Robinson said that he decided to utilize the retirement incentive, known statewide as the "Mellow Bill," to retire from the school position and assume responsibilities as district administrator.

He will also provide more assistance regarding conservation and areas he believes are related, such as pesticide safety training for private applicators in the county.

Jeff Stoltzfus, an associate with the Pequea-Mill Creek Project, will take over the responsibilities of the school's program on August 1, including the operation of the New Holland Vegetable Day and work with the farmers served in the program.

The program, according to Robinson, introduced trickle irrigation into the area.

Robinson said he was happy with the continued strong support of the school board during the past 26 years. He said a lot of credit must be extended to the school district for their invaluable aid in ensuring the adult farmer program's success.

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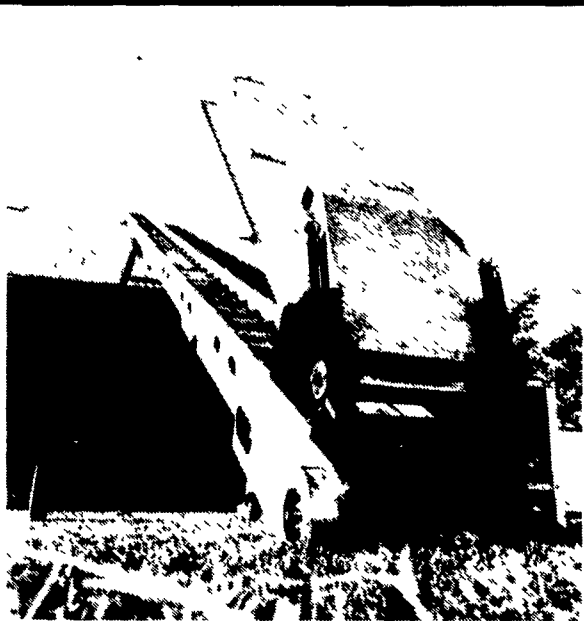
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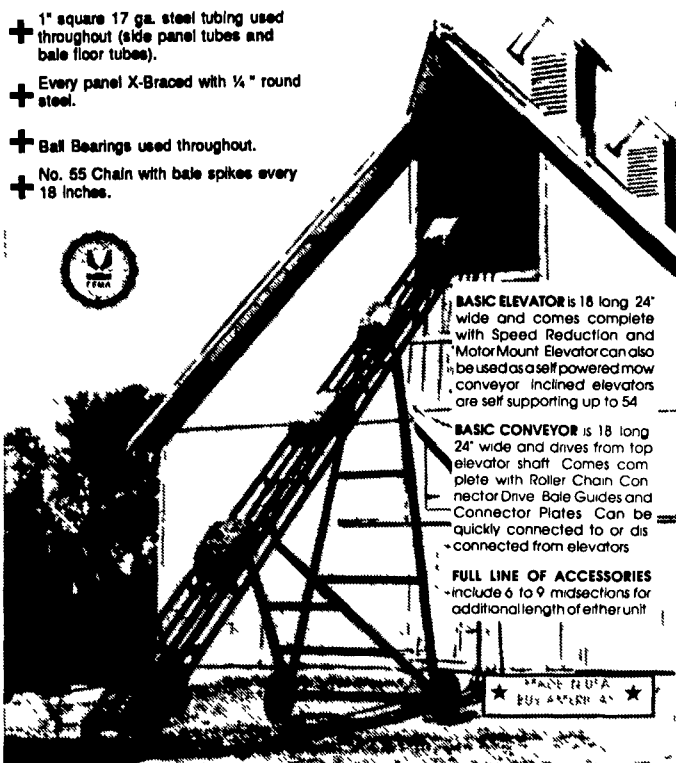
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