

York Farm Bureau Honors Pat Sueck

(Continued from Page 17)

trucker, the supermarkets," she emphasizes.

"We want to teach that without agriculture, they won't have anything to eat." Pat estimates that more than 8,000 Pennsylvania children, through 121 participating teachers, have been touched with the foundation's agriculture education outreach in the three years of Ag In The Classroom seminars. The 90 teachers who took the 1994 five-day course at Penn State in July, from urban, suburban and rural schools, were so enthused with the program that they raised more than \$500 among themselves to fund a scholarship for a teacher to attend next year's seminar.

"I can't praise these teachers enough," smiles Pat. "They give up a week of their own time, get deeply engrossed in the subjects, ask amazing questions and really want to interact with farm families. They are just so enthusiastic."

Twenty-two of the leaders involved with the 1994 Ag In The Classroom program were previous graduates who returned to help teach the sessions. Topics covered a broad range of agriculture commodities, conservation, nutrition, research, agronomy, with lively hands-on activities like making ice cream in a tin can. Farm and processor tours were especially popular, while a resource fair gave teachers the chance to gather materials and information from participating agriculture and agri-business groups. Foremost goal of the Agriculture Awareness Foundation is the education of educators, giving them background in many facets of agriculture

and resources to find information that is factual, rather than that based on emotional appeal.

"Another goal I would like to see reached is the development of a sort of Weekly Reader publication on agriculture for children," Pat says of her wishes for the Foundation's future. "We also hope to put together some guideline information for farmers who host tours for children on their farms, including some emphasis on the myriad of agriculture-related careers.

Bubbling with enthusiasm over the potential for teacher education about agriculture, Pat chuckles that her husband warns people they should not ask her to explain Ag In the Classroom because they will not be able to stop her once she begins talking. That enthusiasm carries over in the fund-raising and promotional presentations she makes to organizations in working to generate financial support for the foundation.

Recently, while visiting with a local organization of community and business leaders, Pat explained the plight of agriculture with a personal example. Because the market price of hogs has dropped well below their cost of production, the Suecks have been dispersing the breeding hog herd they've built over the last two decades. In the middle of her speech, Pat suddenly found tears rolling down her cheeks as she related that decision. Her tears embarrassed Pat. But it vividly pointed out to her listeners just how much Pat Sueck cares about farmers and the agriculture industry and why her peers chose to

Give Hand Up Instead Of Handout

LITITZ (Lancaster Co.) — The Lititz Church of the Brethren will host the seventh annual Heifer Project International "Living Gift Fair" November 26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Held the day after "Black Friday"—the biggest shopping day of the year—the fair provides conscientious Christmas shoppers with an alternative to the materialism of the holiday season.

This year's fair also doubles as a birthday party for HPI, which marks its 50th anniversary in 1994. Free cake and ice cream, compliments of Turkey Hill Dairy, will be served from 12 noon as long as supplies last.

Sponsored by HPI and staffed by an ecumenical group of more than 50 volunteers, the fair enables people to deal with two problems at once—holiday shopping and global hunger.

Shoppers purchase animals or shares of animals in the name of a friend. The friend receives an attractive HPI gift card. A family in need receives the HPI animal that is purchased. Colorfully decorated tables provide information about how the HPI animals benefit poor families in the U.S. and around the world. Shoppers can choose from a variety of HPI animals, ranging from cows, to yaks, to honeybees.

Those wishing to take something home with them can choose from Discovery Toys and farm-related toys. Additional items include homemade baked goods, arts and crafts, HPI souvenirs, and more. Homemade soups and sandwiches will be on sale for lunch.

Special events for children include a Petting Zoo from 10-2, and puppet shows at 10, 11 and 1

by "Mark's Minstrels." The puppeteers from the Ephrata Church of the Brethren will depict the history and work of HPI.

A nonprofit Christian organization that works in partnership with 13 denominations to provide animals and related services, HPI was founded by Church of the Brethren layman Dan Nest, whose dream was to give "not a cup, but a cow"—to provide families with a source of food rather than short-term relief.

Since a heifer named Faith sailed to Puerto Rico in 1944, HPI has supplied more than one million families in 110 countries with food—and income-producing animals, along with training in animal husbandry; ecologically sound, sustainable farming; and community development.

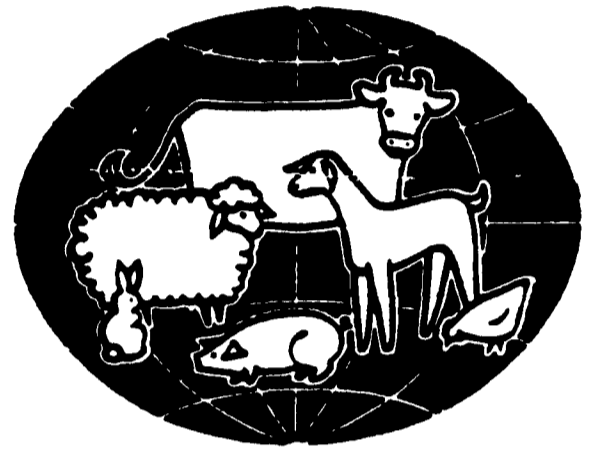
Today HPI provides families in

31 countries with 20 different kinds of animals. A unique feature of HPI is the requirement that recipients "pass on the gift" by sharing an offspring of their gift animal with another needy family.

Last year's Living Gift Fair raised about \$12,000. Fairgoers purchased 3 heifers, 5 yaks, 6 sheep, 21 rabbits, 24 packages of honeybees, 34 guinea pigs, hundreds of chicks, ducks, and fish, and more.

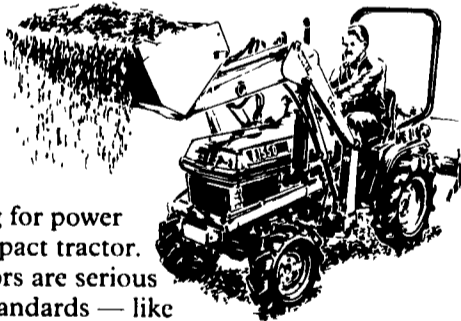
Donations of arts and crafts and baked goods will be accepted up to the day of the fair. For more information, contact Dan Fitzkee at (717) 665-5743.

The Lititz Church of the Brethren is located at 300 W. Orange St., in Lititz, directly across from Warwick High School.



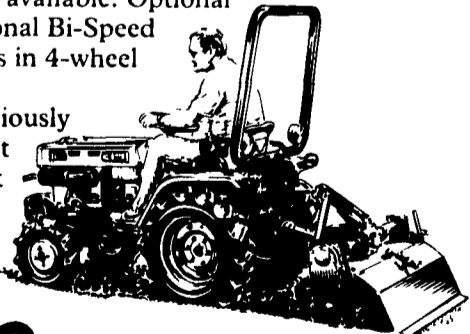
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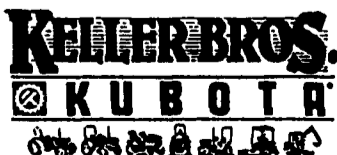
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