

Technology To Change Grocery Shopping

ELLIOTTSBURG, (Perry Co.) — One minute challenging the audience with predictions that we will soon do our grocery shopping by computer, while the next minute joking that after 30 years in the business he still doesn't know how to pick a good honeydew, Allan Noddle, president and CEO of Giant Foods, Inc., captivated the crowd assembled to hear this successful businessman at the 74th annual meeting of the Perry County Extension Association.

While noting that Giant Foods has sales of 1.2 billion annually and 10,000 employees, Noddle chose not to dwell on the successful business which he directs. Instead, he provided a glimpse of the future and gave some tips on how to use the coming changes to our benefit. Noddle noted the vote by the Pennsylvania General Assembly to approve the fiber optics network for the state, and said, "When you all have access to fiber optics, many aspects of life will change. Communication will be revolutionized, as well as the tasks that will be done via computer."

Noddle feels strongly that the NAFTA agreement will be good

for America, specifically American agriculture. He stated, "No one can outproduce the American farmer." He sighted the technological edge, the natural resources, the free markets and competitive spirit as essential elements in the success of American agriculture.

Predicting that at the turn of the century Korea will be a major world economic power, rivaling Japan, Noddle said, "Don't worry, no matter what you hear, American workers are still the most productive." He said that if Japanese workers were as efficient and productive as American workers, Japan would have to lay off 20,000,000 workers.

Mentioning immigration and the health of our economy, Noddle said, "No matter what you hear about our economy, it is still the most productive and prosperous in the world. Because when immigrants head for better opportunity, where do they go? They come here!"

Noddle spoke for about an hour and took questions from the audience for about 15 minutes. The meeting was held at Messiah Lutheran Church, Elliptsburg.

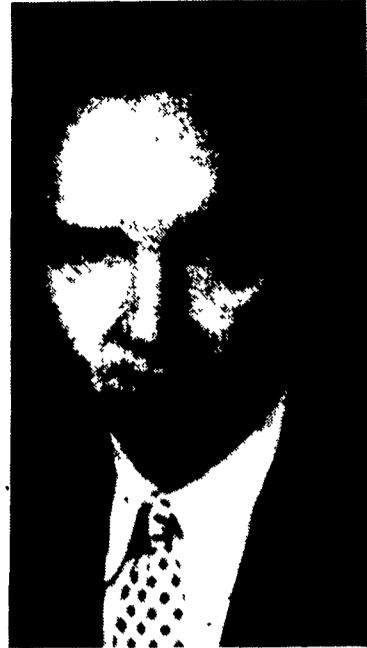
Approximately 120 people attended according to Dave Swartz, county extension director. Swartz said that about 30 additional folks had called the office requesting tickets to the meeting, but the church could not serve more than 120 people for supper.

Several individuals and families were recognized during the annual meeting including the presentation of the Perry County Soil Conservation District's Conservation-Farmer-of-the-Year Awards. This year three farm families were so honored. Edgar Byers, Millerstown; Phil Brubaker, Loysville; and Russell Raub and family, Duncannon. The Soil Conservation District presents these awards to recognize farm families who have worked hard to have the best soil conservation practices possible on their farms. Oscar Campbell, chairman of the Soil Conservation District's board of directors presented the awards. Campbell also presented a special tribute plaque to Robert Cauffman, Millerstown, for his many years of service as chairman of the Perry County Soil Conservation District Board of Directors.

Becky Kaucher, Perry County 4-H Coordinator, presented a special award to Resta Tressler, Newport, for her 35 years of service as a 4-H club leader. Tressler recalled that when she started in 1960, only girls attended her club.

Bob Winters, an elementary school guidance counselor with Carroll Elementary school, spoke about how Extension programs in the school are of great value to the students. He cited the self-respect program, the nutrition education program and the Farm-City programs as examples of the quality programs delivered by county extension staff in the elementary schools. Winters remarked that this curriculum enrichment was professionally done, and passed on the thanks of the West Perry School District to Penn State for providing this resource.

Other business included remarks by Harold Ott, regional director of Cooperative Extension, who brought greetings from Penn State University. Robert O'Toole and Judy Fry were elected to the board of directors. Allen Kretzing, Loysville; Virgil Gutshall, Blain; and Dave Bratton, Millerstown; completed their term of service on the board of directors.



Allan Noddle



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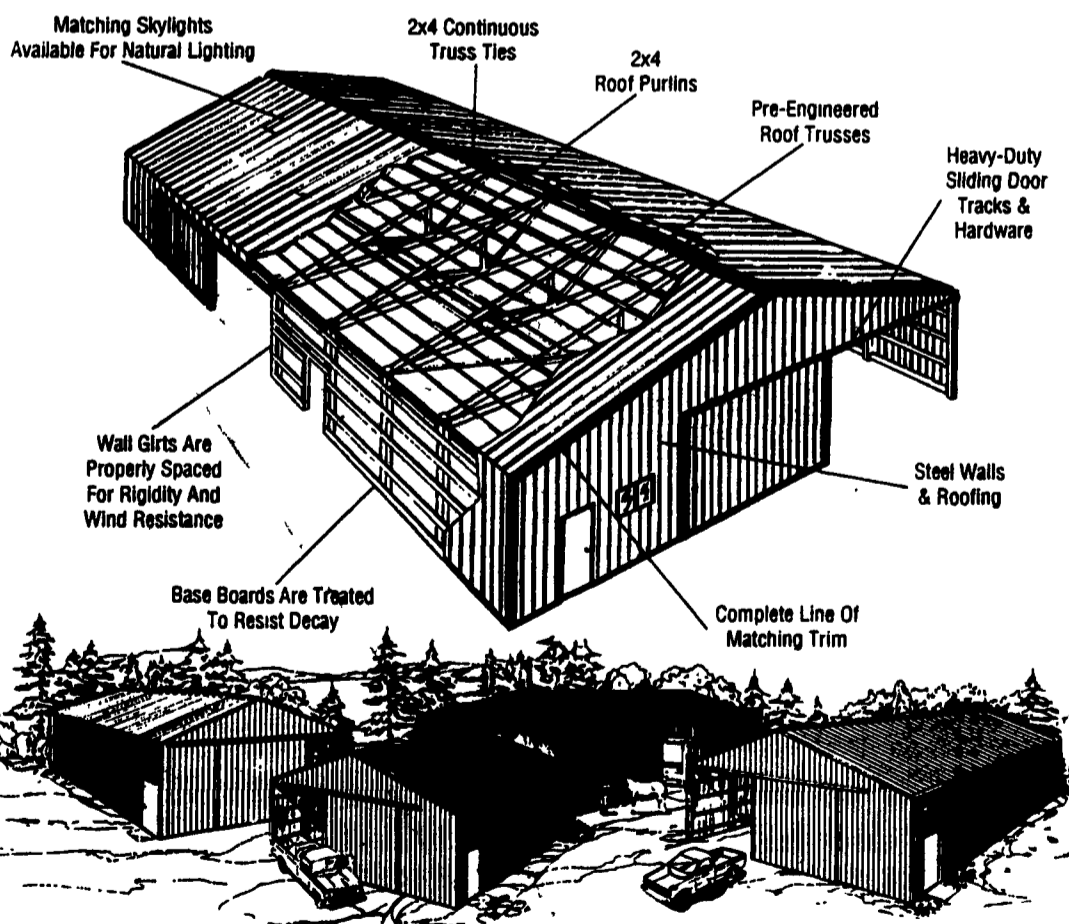
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