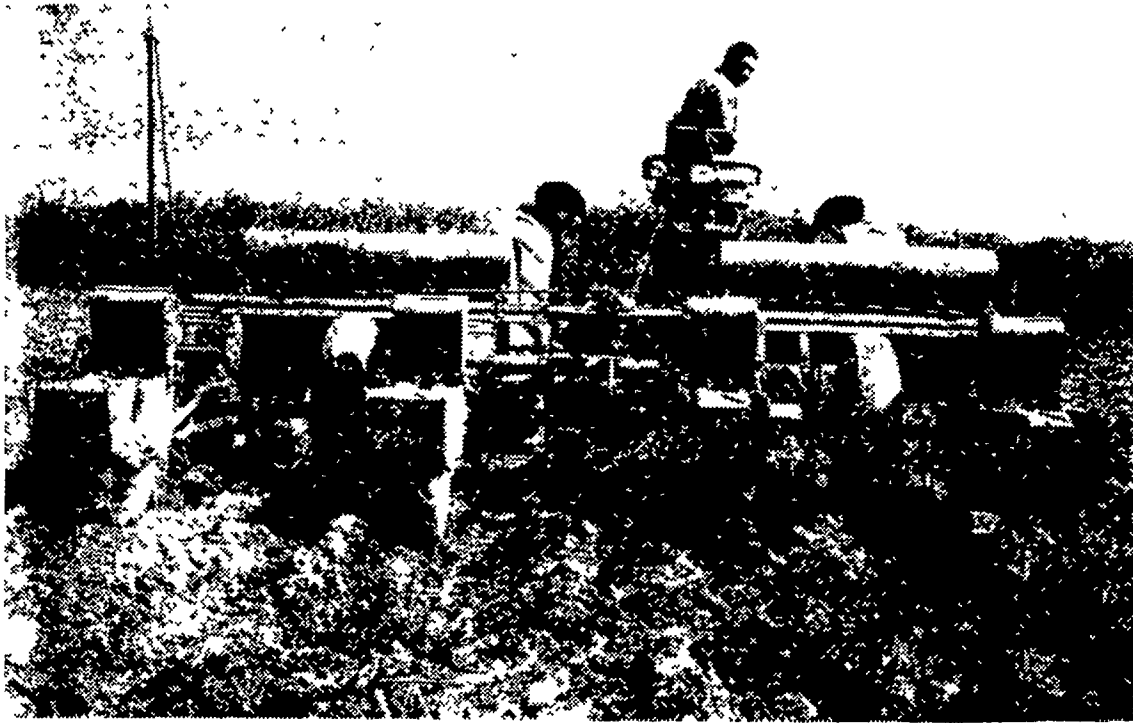


Lancaster Farming

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\$2 Per Year



GERALD SNAVELY, LITITZ R1, glances back briefly as he heads down the field planting part of his 126-acre corn crop. He has used wheel track planting — a minimum tillage technique — for the past eight years. In this practice, a seedbed is fitted in plowed land by the action of the tractor wheels and an extra wheel mounted in front of the planter. This is the first year Snavely has used a four-row planter. The offset effect that he managed by his hitching arrangement can be seen from the angle of this picture. "It's the little refinements in equipment and in technique which makes this practice work," Jerry tells us.

L. F. Photo.

Jerry Snavely Saves Soil And Tillage Costs With Wheel Track Corn Planting

Eight years ago, Jerry Snavely was a sophomore in high school. He chanced to read a college research paper on wheel track planting, and felt that the method might be practical for opening up some of the fields for continuous corn on the 175-acre home farm.

"The equipment was pretty primitive that first year. The method was so new there was nobody around to ask about the details so we just had to figure it out as we went along," Snavely recalled. Using pictures and a sketchy understanding of the principle involved, he developed a two-row planter and adapted a 30-year-old Caterpillar tractor to pull it by adding a three-point hitch. They managed to plant 40 acres in corn by wheel-track that first year. The farm now has 126 acres

in continuous corn, and Snavely becomes more sold on the "new" method each year.

Although yield has increased each year, with the exception of last year, Snavely feels this advantage is really secondary. The main advantages come from reduced tillage costs, which he estimates at about a \$5 savings per acre, and from a reduction in soil erosion. He also noted that the soil tilth and water-holding capacity have steadily improved.

The Snavely farm does not contain much limestone soil; most of it is Berks shaley silt loam. According to county officials, the soil is very fertile. (Continued on Page 5)

Grumbling, Cloister FFA Chapter, Wins Area Land Contest

Kenneth Grumbling of Stevens R1, a junior class member of the Cloister FFA Chapter of Ephrata High School, topped the field in the York-Lancaster area land judging contest held this week at the Susquehannock High School, Glen Rock, York County. He was one of four Cloister members placing in the top ten.

This was Grumbling's first year in competition in land judging. In fact, he had no experience in land judging prior to this year's course in vocational agriculture. When asked by teacher Lewis Ayers how he managed to do so well, he replied that he studied very hard over last weekend in preparation for the contest!

Runner-up was Richard Smith from the Solanco FFA Chapter.

This contest serves as a final examination for the top boys taking the land judging unit in their vo-ag programs.

(Continued on Page 4)

Governor Scranton Dedicates New Pennsylvania Agriculture Building

From the seat of a tractor Governor William Scranton cut the ribbon in a dedication ceremony "officially" opening the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's new building.

The Governor told the group assembled for the ceremony that "seventy years ago the Department of Agriculture was founded in the belief it could help assure us an adequate food supply and help many of our people eliminate some of the slavery and drudgery then prevalent in farming.

"Seventy years ago in its little one room headquarters in the old Capitol Building,

the Department was — and still is today — a part of government intended as a service for the people.

"Today we stand on the threshold of both a new building and a new era in this NEW Pennsylvania," the Governor proclaimed.

According to Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Leonard H. Bull, the new building, in use since last December 16, has enabled his department to expand its various services to the general public. For example, use of the conference facilities by an increasing number of farm organizations confirms the

(Continued on Page 6)

Special Meeting Will Launch Youth S & W Conservation Projects

A special meeting on the 4-H Soil and Water Conservation Project has been set for Thursday, May 13, at the Farm Bureau Bldg. in Lancaster, according to Winthrop Merriam, associate county agent.

The program is open to any present 4-H Club member, or any other young person of 4-H Club age. There are no restrictions regarding place of residence. Farm, rural-non-farm, and urban youngsters may take part.

At Thursday's meeting the conservation project will be thoroughly explained, record books will be distributed, and the awards program outlined.

(Continued on Page 12)

Vo-Ag Teachers Plan For County Institute Days

At their regular monthly meeting held this week in the Warwick High School, the county teachers of vocational agriculture made plans for participation in the County Institute Days to be held next Fall. The two-day meeting will be general the first day, and break up into special interest groups the second day. The agriculture section will be held from 8:30-11:30 a.m. on the second day.

A committee was named. (Continued on Page 6)

Ivanhoe Dau. Gains National HIR Prominence

A Registered Holstein cow owned by Sinking Springs Farms, Inc., York, has entered the select circle of national and state leaders on Dairy Herd Improvement Registry test.

Holstein-Friesian Association of America reports that Sinking Springs Ivan Bright (VG) has completed the fourth highest official national milk record made by a Junior three-year-old milked two times daily in the 365-day period. (Continued on Page 4)

Weather Forecast

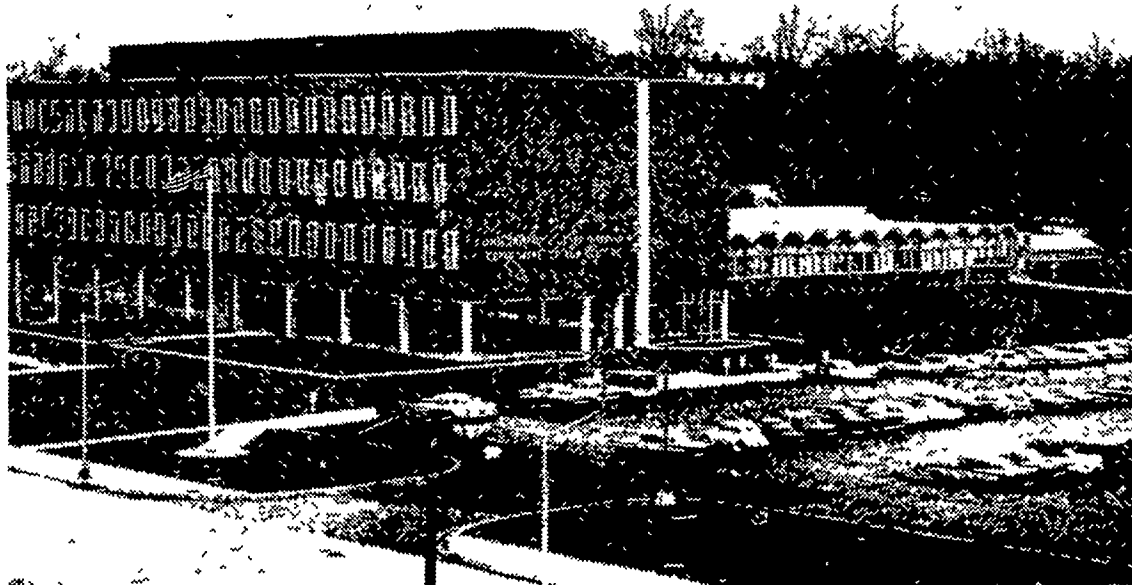
Temperatures for the five-day period, Saturday through Wednesday, are expected to average above the normal of 73 degrees high and 49 low. It will be generally warm throughout, but will become cooler about mid-week.

Precipitation is expected to total more than 1/2 inch. This will occur as showers on Saturday and again on Tuesday.

Farm Calendar

May 10 — Fulton Grange #66 will host Granges of Lancaster County at Oakryn — 7:30 p.m. Soil and Water Conservation District Directors at County Court House.

May 11 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. DHIA member tour of dairy barn remodeling and expansion; starts at Jay Garber farm, Lancaster R6 — 8 p.m. Garden Spot 4-H Community Club at Smoke- (Continued on Page 12)



THE NEW PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURE BUILDING WAS DEDICATED BY GOVERNOR WILLIAM SCRANTON this week in a ribbon-cutting ceremony which featured the Governor on a tractor. The building has been in use since last December 16, and is the official home of the Pa. Dept. of Agriculture. The one-story, connected building on the right rear is a laboratory extension and greenhouse.