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# Lancaster Farming

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JACOB MUSSER, has a profitable FFA project of guinea pigs. At present he has 130 breeders.

L. F. Photo

## Jacob Musser Has 130 Breeder Guinea Pigs

A business that started with three sows and one buck has grown into a profitable FFA project for 17-year-old Jacob W. Musser, East Earl R1. And when this Junior at Garden Spot High School discusses the advantages and problems of his pet project, he isn't talking about swine or deer. For Jacob Musser has 130 breeder guinea pigs. "Guinea pigs don't mind cold weather," Musser says expertly, having been in the business for six years already. "But they must not be subjected to extreme changes in temperatures or dampness." Jacob keeps his upper barn floor pens at 50 degrees with a gas heater. He feeds his all home-raised guinea pigs a special ration and good meadow hay. You may not see them alfalfa hay he says and rabbit feed has alfalfa in it. Musser buys a half-ton of feed at a time and that lasts seven to eight weeks depending on the amount of hay fed or what off-fall greens he can obtain from local produce stores. A sow will, on the average, produce a litter every eight weeks and they have about five litters each year. So, with Jacob's average of 45 pigs raised per litter, it becomes quite a multiplication proposition. "I enjoy working with the guinea pigs," Jacob says, "I like to watch them eat. The most important management practices are to keep feed in their bins so

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## Co. Poultry Association Meeting Next Thursday

The Lancaster County Poultry Association will hold the first of three informative meetings next Thursday, January 29, 7:30 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center, 1383 Acadia Road, Lancaster. The speakers have been in the forefront in trying to cooperatively achieve a better and more honest way of discovering the true egg price. There will be a question and answer session following their presentations.

The program topic is "Market Stability and Producer Responsibility."

Speakers for the evening are Dr. Floyd Hicks, Chairman Penn State University, Mt. Airy; M. Stein (Greene, Maine) President Maine Egg Farms and one of the founders of UEP; Mr. Jerry Faulkner (Atlanta Georgia) Manager, United Egg Producers; Mr. David Hefler (Scarborough, Maine) Manager D. E. Coster Egg Farms and formerly of NEPPCO; Mr. Ray Delano (Durham, New Hampshire) Manager Northeastern Egg Marketing Association.

The second meeting will be held on February 26, at 8:00 p.m. in the Farm and Home Center. The program will consist of "A Review of the Poultry Inspection Law" and a panel discussion on "What do Consumers Want from an Egg?"

A third meeting will be held on March 17, at 8:00 p.m. in the Farm and Home Center. The program will consist of "Forced Moulting and Ventilation."

Information on the second and third meetings will be published at a later date.

## Farm And Home Center Debt Down To \$128,000

The debt on the Lancaster County Farm and Home Center is down to \$128,000. This announcement was made Thursday night at the Foundation's annual banquet and business meeting held in the Farm and Home Center.

Although the financial statement prepared for the meeting stated the debt to be \$140,000 as of the close of 1969, treasurer George Lewis said the recent antique sale plus contributions and extra building operation funds had made possible the further reduction of debt to the present stated figure.

Sighting the minutes of the 1968 meeting that reported a debt at that time of \$196,000, Lewis said we have come a long way but cautioned that there was only \$15,000 left in pledges from the fund raising campaigns and nothing has been set aside for

## Farm Management Meetings Scheduled

A series of Farm Management meetings have been scheduled to help farmers to be more efficient according to an announcement made by Jay Irwin, Associate Agricultural Agent this week. The meetings will be held at the Farm and Home Center each starting at 8 p.m.

The dates and speakers are as follows:

January 28 — "Estate Planning" Information concerning Investments, Savings, Insurance, Mutual Funds and other valuable information concerning estates. Speaker: Fred Hughes. (Continued on Page 5)

depreciation. "So, we must keep the money coming in," he said.

In other business, M. M. Smith, reported on the scholarships available for local youths in Home Economics or Agriculture colleges and seven directors were elected as follows: Dr. Harry K. Geilach, 57 Springhouse Road, Lancaster; John H. Herr, 1564 Millport Road, Lancaster; J. Everett Kreider, Quarryville R1; Richard P. Maule, Quarryville R2; Mrs. Glenn Myer, Kirk-

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## Lloyd Wolf Herd Tops In Milk Testing Association

The highest Lancaster County Dairy Herd Improvement Association average for the 1969 testing year was recorded by the Lloyd Wolf herd at Quarryville R2. Announcement of the high record of 16,730 pounds of milk and 660 pounds of butterfat on 416 cows was made at the annual DHIA dinner meeting held Tuesday at the Farm and Home Center. Paul Welk, Herdsman for Wolf, accepted the award from association president, Richard Hess. The Wolf herd under Welk's direction was also the top herd in the County in 1967.

Second high herd honors went to J. Mowery Frey Jr., 401 Beaver Valley Pike, Lancaster, with 15,814 pounds of milk, 657 pounds of butterfat on 58 cows.

New directors were also announced for six districts as follows: No. 2, Harry Troop, No. 5,

James Kreider; No. 8, Harry Ranck Jr.; No. 11, Isaac Hostetter; No. 14, Robert L. Kauffman Jr.; and No. 16, Elmer Weber Victor Plastow, Associate County Agent, reported average for all County herds was 487 pounds of butterfat. That compares with 490 in 1967 and 479 in 1968. He also reported 18,077 local cows on test.

The annual report shows the average number of cows in County herds is 491 and the total value of the milk produced above feed costs was \$499.

Herbert Gilmore, Dairy Science Extension Penn State, reported the State DHIA has been approved as a non-profit corporation. This was done, he said, to protect directors of the association.

He also reported 50,000 cows (Continued on Page 9)

## Farm Calendar

- Sunday, Jan. 25  
25-28—Southeastern Poultry and Egg Assn Convention, Atlanta, Georgia  
Monday, Jan. 26  
7:30 p.m. — Lancaster County FFA Chapter meets, Warwick  
Tuesday, Jan. 27  
7:30 p.m. — Ephrata Young Farmer meet, Vo Ag 100m  
7:30 p.m. — Garden Spot Young Farmers meet, Vo Ag 100m  
7:30 p.m. — Central Area 4-H Club meets, Landis Brothers, Manheim Pike  
Wednesday, Jan. 28  
9:30 a.m. — Agway Dairyman's (Continued on Page 11)



DHIA top herd award goes to Lloyd Wolf, Quarryville R2 (right) and his herdsman, Paul Welk (center). Making the presentation at the annual DHIA banquet, Tuesday, is Richard Hess, President. L. F. Photo