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Lancaster Farming

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On his first day on the Kauffman farm, Theo Neher helped to bring this calf into the world while its mother looks on proudly.

Theo Neher

Welcome to Lancaster County

Young Theodore Neher has lived on a farm most of his life. He wants to go to college, get his degree and then get his doctorate so that he might teach in some area of agriculture. He's hard working, enthusiastic and knowledgeable.

Now so far there is nothing here that would make Theo any different from most Lancaster County young farmers. But there is one major difference. Theo is a twenty-one-year old German farmer in this country for one year to get practical farm experience.

Theo arrived in the United States just this week and is staying with the Robert H. Kauffman's, Elizabethtown RD1. He applied for the visit to America while a student in Germany. His request was relayed to Charles Larson of the National Holstein-Friesian

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Association. Larson, in turn, contacted the Kauffmans who extended the invitation.

"Everything in America is so big," said Neher as he devoured a large plate of ice cream in the spacious kitchen of the Kauffman farmhouse. "In Germany things are smaller, much smaller."

Neher and his parents lived on an 88-acre farm near Otterswang, Germany. His parents have 50 per cent of their land in pasture, 35 per cent in grain, such as wheat, barley and oats, and 15 per cent in corn, which is used for silage. The Neher's have 20 cows

"Our farm in Germany would be called a middle farm. The Kauffman farm, to me, is a large farm," he continued. Theo has a farm background having worked on farms in Germany plus being involved in a Young Farmer Club. He has also worked in a tractor factory and done some construction work.

His first day on the Kauffman

farm was a memorable one as he helped to bring a calf into the world. This is all part of the learning experiences which will help Theodore Neher teach agriculture in his native land

Farm Calendar

Saturday, April 8

Pennsylvania Holstein Association Calf sale, Small Arena, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg.
Fulton Grange 66 annual supper, Oakryn.

Tuesday, April 11

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. — Lancaster County Holstein Association annual tour, Lancaster County farms

7:30 p.m. — Farm and Home Foundation board of directors meeting, Farm and Home Center.

7:30 p.m. — Ephrata Young

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Lancaster County 1972

Wheat-Feed Grain Program

There are a total of 638 farms enrolled in the 1972 wheat and-or feed grain program — 442 for feed grain and 530 for wheat, according to Miss Dorothy Neel, Lancaster County executive director of ASCS.

Wheat farmers have agreed to set-aside 1,829 acres and feed grain farmers agreed to set-aside 3,281 acres.

In addition to this, the Department will accept the

additional five or 10 per cent of the feed grain base offered by farmers.

Farmers will earn payments on the set-aside acreage and be eligible for price-support loans on wheat or feed grain grown.

The set-aside acres must be cropland of average productivity. It cannot be harvested in 1972, but may be pastured after September 1.

Special Hog Sale for FFA and 4-H Projects

A special feeder pig sale for FFA and 4-H projects, for youth only, will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 15 at Charles Myers Black and White Farm, sponsored by the Lancaster County Swine Producers Association.

Approximately 200 hogs have

been consigned for the special sale. Most breeds will be represented.

Wilbur Hosler will serve as auctioneer for the new venture.

Warren Leininger, Denver, is chairman of the committee. For further information, contact him at 215-267-5517.

Butz Criticizes Corn Import Levies

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz issued the following statement:

"I am extremely disappointed at the increase in protection resulting from decisions taken last week by the European Community. This new action to raise the barrier against our corn is a serious disappointment and a setback to world trade.

"The variable levy system applied to corn imports has already resulted in an expansion in corn production within the European Community—a high-priced production that works against European consumers as well as U.S. corn producers. It is unreasonable and inconsistent

with constructive trade policy that American farmers who are efficient producers of corn should be reducing their plantings of corn while European farmers who are less efficient are encouraged to expand theirs through increased protection.

"We asked the Community to consider the level of its variable

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John M. Shank looks over a hive of bees on his woodland in West Hempfield Township.

John M. Shank

A Honey of a Beekeeper

John M. Shank, 1954 Larch Avenue, East Petersburg, recently celebrated his 50th anniversary. No, not a wedding anniversary but his 50th year in beekeeping. Now maybe this type of anniversary is not as important as the one involving wedding bliss but to Shank it does have some significance.

"I bought my first hive from a New Danville fruit grower about a year after I became interested in bees. So that would make it about 1922. I had been reading about bees in various farming magazines and they seemed

interesting to me. So I bought a hive. I was 19 years old at the time," recalls Shank.

The ownership of the bees was fairly short-lived as the lure of the West was in the bones of this New Danville farmboy. After working on a ranch in Oregon, Shank returned to Lancaster County and married Emma B. Ober from Kissel Hill. It wasn't until 1949 that Shank returned to the business of raising bees. He's been at it ever since.

"I now have seven hives on my three-acre tract of land in West Hempfield Township. I have had

bees all over Lancaster County, back at Clay, below Willow Street, below Millersville and even at my former home along the Oregon Pike in Manheim Township. One of the most important rules of beekeeping is not to have more bees than you can properly care for," notes Shank.

It's fairly easy for a beginner to get started in beekeeping. "First, you must have a genuine interest in bees and a willingness to take care of the hives. Secondly, you should join the Lancaster County Beekeeping Association. We have

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