

Lancaster Farming

DES Ban to Have Little Local Effect



Earl Stauffer, Ephrata, has been named to receive the American Farmer Degree at the national FFA convention in October.

Earl C. Stauffer To Get American Farmer Degree

The Future Farmers of America will confer their highest degree on Earl Stauffer, Ephrata, during the FFA national convention this October in Kansas City.

Only one in a thousand FFA members can receive the annual award. This year, Stauffer is one of ten Pennsylvanians so honored.

To be eligible for the award, a young man must have proven leadership abilities, he must have a record of community service

and he must have an outstanding farm program. He must also have graduated from high school at least 12 months prior to the national convention and he must have participated for at least three years in a school vo-ag program.

Earl's farming program revolves around a partnership agreement with his father, Clarence Stauffer. He points out that the agreement is a legally binding document, prepared by a

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A check with area farmers and animal nutrition experts revealed that the recent ban on DES (diethylstilbestrol) in animal feeds should have little noticeable effect on Lancaster County beef producers.

The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday ordered an immediate halt to production of the growth hormone, and an end to feeding by January 1.

The FDA said it was acting on the basis of new scientific evidence demonstrating that there is no feasible way to prevent DES residues from showing up in beef liver, as required by law. (See editorial, page 10.)

DES is a known carcinogen. In laboratory tests, it has been shown that the drug can produce cancer in animals, if administered in sufficient doses. Under the Delaney amendment to the Food and Drug Act, no detectable residue of any known carcinogen is allowed in any animal tissue used for human food.

Dr. Lester Burdett, Extension Animal Scientist at Penn State, told LANCASTER FARMING that DES had been shown to increase daily gains in beef animals by 17 percent, and to reduce by 12 percent the amount of feed needed for a pound of gain.

"The FDA has stopped the use of DES only in feed," Burdett said. "DES pills, though, can still be implanted under the skin of the animals' ears. The pills are good for about 120 days, and after that, a farmer will have to implant again if he wants to keep on getting the weight advantage of DES."

"DES is metabolized in the animals' liver, and that's where the drug is being detected. We can't find it in the meat, but with improved detection techniques, it

might yet turn up there."

Improved detection techniques are, according to Burdett, a big part of the problem. "Back when the Delaney Amendment was passed we were able to detect one or two parts per million of foreign substance in foodstuffs. Now we're counting parts per billion, and soon we'll be counting parts per trillion. Some of the carcasses rejected have had as little as one-half part per billion DES residue."

Asked what he's going to recommend to farmers who've been feeding DES, Burdett said, "I'll tell them to implant DES unless or until we get a ban on implants. They can also feed MGA, but that only works for heifers. They can also implant Ral-Gro or Synovex if DES is forbidden altogether. These are hormone-like compounds that haven't been found yet to cause cancer."

Burdett feels that most of the bigger beef producers will go to ear implants. "There's no difference in the rate of gain bet-

ween implants and feed additives. Implants do present more of a management problem though."

Big mid-western feedlots with 1000 head or more will almost certainly go to implants, Burdett feels. And these operations produce over 57 percent of the beef consumed in this country.

Most smaller operators will also use implants, although Burdett agrees that this might not be as generally true in Lancaster County as in the rest of the state and country.

Lancaster County farmers, some feel, are more apt to discard a practice if there is the least bit of controversy about its use. There's some basis in fact for this feeling.

For example, one of the area's larger feed dealers reported that in one four-week period during 1971, their beef feed sales were 100 percent DES fortified. This year, in that same four-week period, only 40 percent of feed sold contained DES.

One of the largest beef producers stopped using DES over a year ago, and he doesn't plan to use implants.

Another grower, Harold Frey of Marietta, said he will implant the yearlings he buys for fattening. He feels the drug does help his production, but under actual farming conditions, it's difficult to say just how much it helps.

Clarence Keener, Manheim R1, says that he will definitely use the ear implants. He finishes off about 580 cattle a year, and last year figures that his farm produced slightly over 11 tons of beef. He produced that beef with the help of DES, and figures conservatively that the drug increased his rate of gain by about ten percent.

Keener has two objections to the implants. First, they're only

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Farm Calendar

Saturday, August 19

7 p.m. — Lancaster County Pomona Grange annual picnic, Holtwood Athletic Field.

1 - 5 p.m. — Folk Music festival, Schaefferstown.

Sunday, August 20

National Hay Convention, August 20 - 22.

Thursday, August 24

Lancaster County Swine Producers board of directors meeting. Farm and Home Center.

Saturday, August 26

11 a.m. — Octorara Young Farmers picnic, Nickel Mines Swimming Pool.

1 - 5 p.m. — Second annual Plowing Contest, Schaefferstown.



Jannell Conrad, left, and Nancy Yunginger were named junior and senior 4-H Queens, respectively, during Thursday's 4-H Achievement Days at the Farm and Home Center.

4-H Achievement Day Winners

Miss Nancy Yunginger, representing the Mount Joy Sewing 4-H Club, was selected the Senior 4-H Queen at the annual Lancaster County Achievement Day activities Thursday evening at the Farm and Home Center.

In the Junior competition Miss Jannell Conrad, a member of the Guernsey Dairy 4-H Club, was crowned Queen.

Miss Yunginger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Yunginger, Marietta R1, was graduated from Lancaster Mennonite School. She plans to further her education in practical nursing at the Willow Street Vo Tech School.

Miss Conrad is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Conrad, Bird-in-Hand, and will be in the ninth grade at Conestoga Valley Junior High School.

The crowning of the queens climaxed an entire day of ac-

tivities at the Farm and Home Center. The day was filled with demonstrations, exhibits, entertainment, a talent contest and a chicken barbecue. Other candidates in the Senior Queen contest were Robin Fellenbaum, Nifty Needles Sewing 4-H Club, Debbie Haberstroh, Mountville Sewing Club; Sandy Kreider, Red Rose Baby Beef 4-H Club, and Donna Rohrer, Boots and Saddles 4-H Club.

In the Junior competition, the following also entered: Doris Hershey, Lititz-Manheim Community Club; Kelly Landis, Brickerville Clay Club; Joanne Metzger, Millersville Sewing Club, and Deb Wiest, Lincoln Sewing Club.

In other competitions during the day, Carl Thomas, Millersville, won first prize for his vegetable display. Keith Wolgemuth, Mount Joy, was the

champion rabbit grower and Melissa Grube, Elm, took top honors in flower arranging.

Alan Mays, Nissley Road, Lancaster, again took top honors in the entomology exhibits. His collection of mounted and preserved insects also won him top honors at the State Farm Show in January.

Champions in each of the other categories were as follows: Dale Ulrich, Ephrata R1, forestry; Philip Risser, Leola, geology; Gregory Shell, Lititz R2, handyman; Karen Greider, Conestoga R2, photography.

Judy Risser, Leola, foods grand champion; Patsy Mengle, foods reserve grand champion and Beth Good, Ephrata, also reserve grand champion in foods.

In clothing, Kim Harsh, of the Garden Spot Sewing Club, had the champion cotton skirt and

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