

Lancaster Farming

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Lancaster Farming Photos

Ephrata's five-man team took first prize in the Lancaster and Chester County FFA Land Judging Contest held Thursday on the Marvin Bennich Farm, Stevens R1. Aaron Stauffer, chairman of the Lancaster County Conservation District, presented

the trophy to the winning team. Accepting the trophy from Stauffer is Paul Horning. Melvin Weiler is also standing. Kneeling, left to right, are John Weaver, Richard Groff and Dale Weber.

Ephrata Takes 1st Place Land Judging Honors

Some 35 vo-ag students from seven area schools took part in Thursday's Lancaster and Chester County FFA Land Judging Contest. Each school was represented by a five-man team, and awards were presented to both the high team and the high individual.

Aaron Stauffer, chairman of the Lancaster County Conservation District, presented trophies to the winners.

The teams from Ephrata and Solanco had a battle for first place, with Ephrata coming out on top by a slim six-point lead. The final scores were 1529 for Ephrata, and 1523 for Solanco.

Ephrata's winning team consisted of Richard Groff, Paul Horning, John Weaver, Dale Weber and Melvin Weiler.

Solanco's Gordon Herr took first place individual honors in the contest, beating out Ephrata's Paul Horning, who

came in second. Others among the top ten contestants were Warren Schmuck, Solanco, Lewis Good, New Holland, Tom Stottlemeyer, Solanco, Richard Groff, Ephrata, Dave Horst, New Holland, John Weaver, Ephrata, Melvin Weiler, Ephrata, and Michael Hartman, New Holland.

The contest was held on the Marvin Bennich farm, Stevens RD1. To score, contestants had to judge the land on soil depth, internal drainage, texture, stoniness and organic matter content.

They had to list the uses for which a particular field was suited and give reasons for their classifications. They also were required to recommend any conservation practices they felt were necessary, and they had to list limiting factors for special uses.

No-Till Corn: Is It For You?

No-till. Zero till. Minimum till. These are all words used to describe an increasingly popular method of planting corn and soybeans. It's a method that could change the appearance of spring-time in Lancaster County.

Instead of plowed, disced, harrowed and pulverized seedbeds for corn, we'll be seeing more and more fields of dead brown thatch, with spots of green where corn plants have begun pushing through. At meetings throughout the area, farmers have been told the advantages of no-till. They're told they'll save time, money, moisture and soil with no-till.

That's an interesting com-

bination of savings, and it has attracted a fair share of converts. Getting into a no-till system is not cheap, though. No-till planters cost anywhere from \$2800 to \$4500 apiece. They can, however, be pulled with a relatively light tractor. And a man with a no-till planter doesn't need a plow, disc or harrow.

For a farmer just starting out, it would no doubt be cheaper to go the no-till route. For someone who's been in business for awhile, and who already has a conventional planter, a big tractor and a barn full of tillage equipment, the decision to change to no-till might call for some hard swallowing and a lot of figuring

with a sharp pencil.

LANCASTER FARMING talked to two no-till converts this week about their operations. Richard Buckwalter, Lititz RD3, feeds about 300 steers a year and grows 40 acres of no-till corn, which he harvests for grain. Robert E. Shore, Washington Boro RD1, operates a dairy farm with his father and brother. The Shores plant some 500 acres of no-till corn every year, and chop almost all of it for silage to feed their 245 head of milking cows. Both Buckwalter and Shore are sold on the advantages of no-till.

Buckwalter said no-till saves him time in the spring, because it lets him plant his crop with fewer

passes through the field. Buckwalter seeds his no-till acreage to rye in the fall, after his corn crop has been harvested. The rye serves as a cover crop over the winter and through the spring. At planting time, he kills the rye and kicks out most of his weed problems by spraying with a mixture of Atrazine, Banvel and Paraquat. Then he plants his corn in 30-inch rows, aiming for a plant population of 22,000 to the acre.

Besides his 40 acres of no-till, Buckwalter plants another 20 with conventional methods. "We grow some tobacco here, too," he explained, "and I'm just a little concerned about putting residual herbicides on the ground I use for tobacco. I have corn in the rotation for those fields, but I

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Farm Calendar

Saturday, May 26
Cherry Fair, Lobachsville, Oley Valley, May 26-28.

Monday, May 28
Fulton Grange meeting, Oakryn. Memorial Day Celebration.

Thursday, May 31
Elizabethtown-Donnegal 4-H Community Club meeting, home of Roy Sauder, Mount Joy.

Silver Spurs 4-H Club Meeting.

Saturday, June 2
9 a.m. - Pennsylvania Chicken "Cook-Off" Contest, Northern Lebanon High School.

1 p.m. - Grooming and Showmanship Clinic, all 4-H Horse Club Members, Glick's Trailer Shop, Bareville; Rain Date June 9.



Lancaster Farming Photos

Richard Buckwalter has been planting no-till corn for three years. Here he's going

back over a field to spray some spots of morning glory.



Ag Society Recognizes Max Smith

M. M. Smith, Lancaster County agricultural agent on The Pennsylvania State University staff, has been named recipient of the 1973 Cooperative Extension Service Award presented by Gamma Sigma Delta, national honor society in agriculture.

Smith received an inscribed plaque at the Penn State chapter's annual meeting May 18 on the University Park campus. He was cited for his outstanding educational contributions to Pennsylvania's agriculture.

A member of the Lancaster County Extension Service staff since 1937, the award winner is nationally known for his work in livestock production, especially beef cattle and sheep.

In 1957 he was recipient of the coveted U. S. Department of Agriculture's Superior Service Award and in 1962 won a Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.