

# Lancaster Farming

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## FARM TRENDS

A summary of market  
and commodity news  
for the past week

by Dick Wanner

### Livestock Prices - Is the Bubble Breaking?

Market news out of the Midwest as well as locally shows a definite slowing down in the advances of prices paid to farmers. The bubble may not have burst, but it's not getting any bigger. Hog prices on Midwestern markets were down \$3-\$4 from the previous week, with highs at week's end of \$54 to \$55 a hundredweight. Wednesday's local hog sales were off about \$3.50 from the week before, but porkers were still bringing a healthy \$58 to \$59.

### Commodity Markets Down

Profit taking and consumer resistance to high food prices gave the ag commodities markets a quick one-two punch this week. Off slightly during the week were quotations on iced broilers, eggs, frozen pork bellies, hogs and cattle futures. Most observers felt that the current market weakness does not portend a plummet in prices to match the tremendous increases of recent months. They do feel, though, that in many instances, markets have reached the top and may be easing back somewhat in the next few weeks.

### Local Steers Hit Another Record

This week a load of steers brought \$65.75 a hundredweight at Vintage, but some observers felt this price was inflated by light volume. Fewer than 300 fat steers passed over the scales on Tuesday. While many of the big buyers were absent, enough of the smaller buyers were there and wanted the animals badly enough to run the prices up. Lancaster Packing Co., one of the buyers that wasn't there, reported this week that it had shut its doors and sent employees home until after the ceiling on beef prices is lifted. Charles Golin, company president, said his 35 employees will be back to work in September. Chris Kunzler, president of Kunzler & Co., has managed to shift workers around to other jobs while the beef freeze is in force. He said his company is out of the beef business, too, until the freeze is off.

### Lancaster County Week in Kansas City?

Thomas Aaron and Dale Bollinger journey to Kansas City, Mo., in October to pick up their American Farmer Degrees. As we were going to press, word of another award came in, this one to Dr. Robert Herr, head of the vo-ag department at Garden Spot High School in New Holland. Herr will be getting an Honorary American Farmer Degree. Congrats to all!

## Guernsey, Holstein Groups Hold Meets

Two Lancaster County dairy breed groups held their annual field days this week. On Tuesday, the Guernsey Field Day was held at Romella Farms, Strasburg RD1, and on Thursday the Holstein Field Day was on the Ernest J. Sauder farm, 924 Silver Spring Rd., Lancaster.

At the Guernsey event, a judging contest in the morning was won by David Harnish, a retired dairy farmer who compiled more points than anyone else entered in the contest. His prize was a model Guernsey cow. Other winners in the men's division were second, Gilbert Linde, Oxford, and third, Robert McSparren, Peach Bottom RD2.

Top three winners in the women's division, in order, were Joyce Wagner, Quarryville, Cheryl Balmer, Lititz and Louise Witmer, Willow Street.

In the youth division, the top three winners were Susan Witmer, Willow Street, Jeffery Smith and Mildred Linde, Oxford.

Brian Shimp, Strasburg, won the calf drawing and received a Guernsey calf from the farm's owners, Robert, Larry and Melvin Brenneman. The calf was awarded with the understanding that it will be shown.

The daylong festivities were highlighted by a speech on the

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## Aaron Named Regional Star Farmer...

# 2 Solanco Grads To Get American Farmer Degrees

In October, two young Lancaster Countians, Dale Bollinger and Thomas Aaron, will receive American Farmer degrees at the yearly National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo. And one of them, Thomas W. Aaron, will be recognized as the Star American Farmer for the Eastern Region.

## Talent, Queens Contests Climax Achievement Day

Day-long activities Thursday climaxed a busy year of activities for most of the Lancaster County 4-H clubs as members, leaders, family and friends met at the Farm and Home Center for 4-H Achievement Day.

Two major events, a talent contest and crowning of a junior and senior 4-H Queen, were on tap for the evening program following a busy day of judging. Monetary prizes were awarded top category winners and talent contest winners.

Sandy Arnold, 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Arnold, 1038 Church Street, Landisville, took the top prize in

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## Farm Calendar

Saturday, August 18  
6 p.m. - Lebanon Valley Poultry Queen Contest, Boscov's.  
7 p.m. - Pomona Grange Picnic, Holtwood Athletic Park.  
Pennsylvania Certified Farm Markets Association Week, August 18-26.  
National Hay Association Convention, Hilton Inn, Troy, Mich., Aug. 18-21.

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Only four Star American Farmers are named each year and one of them will also be named Star Farmer of America at Kansas City.

Both Bollinger and Aaron are 1970 graduates of Solanco High School. Aaron and his wife, Susan own an 80-cow Jersey herd and maintain a successful farming operation on 145 tillable acres in Drumore Township. Aaron is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Aaron.

Aaron got his start in farming when his father gave him a Jersey calf for Christmas in 1961. Since then he has built his herd steadily. Aaron points with pride to granddaughters of that first heifer which are still in the herd today.

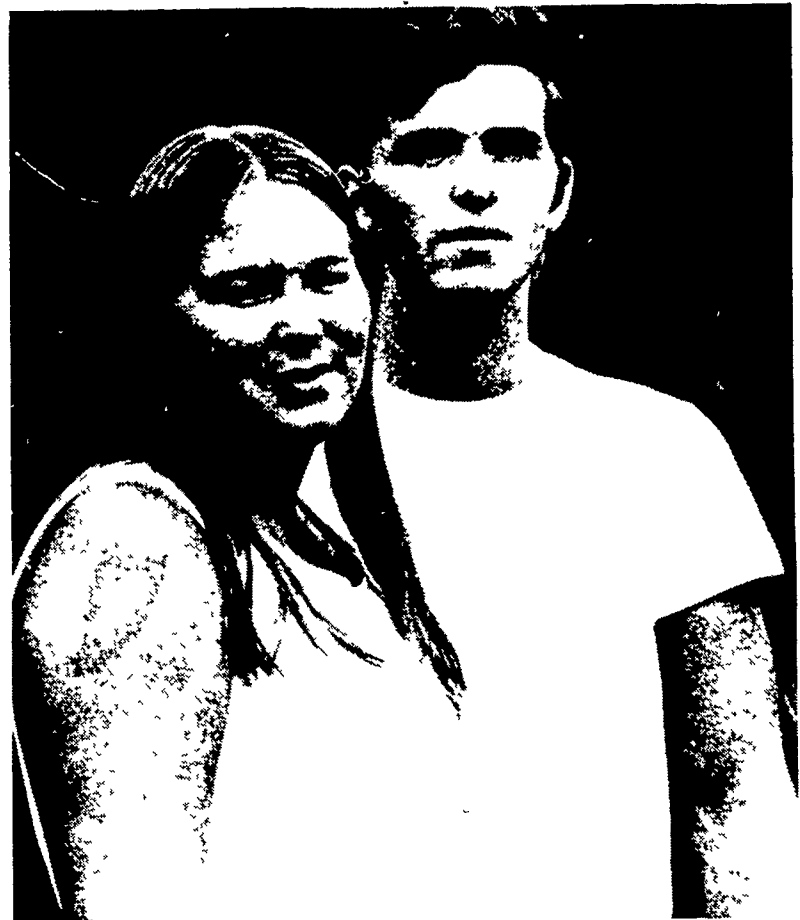
On entering high school in 1966 one of the first things Thomas did was to enroll in the vocational agriculture program and join the Solanco FFA Chapter where his vocational agriculture instructor and FFA advisor was William M. Fredd. Aaron feels that the training in vocational agriculture helped improve his farm management skills and taught him the importance of good farm records. In the FFA chapter he served on several committees

and participated in local, county and state judging contests. He was on the parliamentary procedure team and served as Chapter Vice President. During his senior year Aaron served as Chaplain for the Red Rose Lancaster County FFA.

Maintaining complete and accurate records has always been one of Aaron's goals. In 1970 he received the Production Credit Award for the most complete and accurate record book in Pennsylvania FFA. As a result of his detailed records Aaron is able to calculate his milk production at over 8,000 pounds of milk per cow and butterfat averages 495 pounds. Corn yield for the young farmer last year was 190 bushels per acre and he harvested 4.4 tons of hay per acre.

In his first year after graduation from high school Aaron went into partnership with his father who has 120 head of Jerseys and farms 100 acres. But he had a desire to start out on his own and when he had an opportunity to rent a farm near home, Aaron jumped at the chance. Aaron arranged with the American Jersey Cattle Club to purchase 50 head of cows from

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Dale and Cindy Bollinger will be at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City this October where Dale will be honored as one of only 11 Pennsylvania men to receive the 1973 American Farmer Degree.