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# Lancaster Farming

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## FARM TRENDS

A summary of market and commodity news for the past week

by Dick Wanner

### Visit Ag Progress Days

For the newest of the new, you'll want to see Ag Progress Days being held next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Over 100 exhibitors have signed up for this year's event and the Ag Progress committee says it's expecting some 30,000 visitors. A special Ag Progress Days guide starts on page 41.

### Holloway Family Foils Rustlers

It was like a latter day Western movie at the Clifford Holloway farm in Wakefield early Friday morning when a pair of would-be rustlers made off with eleven Holloway calves. The two thieves drove straight through an electric fence and backed their pickup up to a small yard not more than 100 feet away from Holloway's bedroom window.

"About one thirty in the morning, I heard some commotion out there, like something was bothering the calves," Holloway said. "I went to the window, and I saw them just as they were leaving. I called the State Police, and meanwhile my son, Cliff, got into his car and chased them down the road."

Young Holloway eventually caught up with the thieves, but he didn't try any Roy Rogers heroics. The pickup was parked alongside the road, and the rustlers were scrambling to fix a tire that had gone flat. Probably, Holloway conjectures, they poked a nail through the tire when they ran over the electric fence.

Continuing on down the road, young Holloway contacted the Maryland State Police and the thieves were apprehended without much trouble. They were young, 17 and 18, and didn't tell anybody what they planned to do with the calves.

The animals, eight heifers and three bulls, had been jammed into the pickup and covered with a canvas tarpulin. The oldest calf was six weeks old and the youngest was two weeks old. Holloway said he told the police the animals were worth at least \$125 to \$150 apiece.

On Friday morning, the Holloway family was working to keep the calves healthy, trying to get them to eat and giving

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Successful contenders in the Lebanon County plowing contest held last Wednesday were Sven Bomberger, seated, Mark Bomgardner, left, and Carl

Bomgardner. All three men will compete in the State Plowing Contest to be held during Ag Progress Days.

## Witmer Receives U.S. Guernsey Youth Award

When the American Guernsey Cattle Club held their annual meeting recently in Orlando, Florida, they named Lancaster County's own Peter Witmer as their 1973 Outstanding Guernsey Youth Award winner. The Penn State senior and son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Witmer, Willow Street RD1, had previously been named Outstanding Guernsey Youth for Pennsylvania.

Peter's national recognition caps a ten-year record of steady achievement in farm youth activities. In 1963, the year he got his first Guernsey heifer, Peter took a first prize in his first Lancaster County Guernsey Roundup. That blue ribbon was the first of many he was to collect over the years. A trophy case in the Witmer basement rec room today is crammed full of ribbons, plaques, citations and trophies.

Hard work and a firm commitment to dairying have been the twin keys to young Witmer's success. "I can't work too much at home, now, because I'm going to Penn State," he says. "But summers and during school vacations I do help out with the milking and all the other farm chores." As a seasoned showman, one of Witmer's extra duties is the preparation of all animals that are entered in dairy shows.

Another special duty is taking over the farm whenever his parents are away. Peter's father, Raymond, is serving his second five-year term on the board of directors of the American Guernsey Cattle Club, and he's active in other farm groups as well.

Peter has had plenty of op-



portunities for soloing as a farm operator. The first time he took over was for a ten-day period while his parents were in Seattle for the annual national Guernsey meeting. "I was only 15 years old at the time," Peter recalled, "and I thought I could hardly

carry the responsibility. Now, it's still a great responsibility, but I don't feel nearly as unsure. I'm more confident of my ability to make rational farming decisions."

With his practical farming experience, and his dairy science degree from Penn State, Peter appears headed toward a successful career as a dairy farmer.

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### Farm Calendar

- Monday, August 27
  - 8 p.m. - DHIA Quarterly Directors meeting, Farm and Home Center.
  - Fulton Grange "Old Timers Night", Oakryn.
- Tuesday, August 28
  - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Agricultural Progress Days, Hershey, August 28-30.
  - 10 a.m. - State Plowing Contest, Contour and Small Plow Divisions, Hershey.
- 4-H District Dairy Show, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg.
- Wednesday, August 29
  - 10 a.m. - State Plowing Contest, Large Plow Division, Hershey.
  - Southeastern FFA Regional Dairy Show, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg.
  - Reading Fair, August 29 - September 3.

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## Plowmen Compete In Lebanon Co.

Ten plowmen turned out for the Lebanon County Plowing Contest on Wednesday, and three men were chosen to participate in the State Plowing Contest to be held next week during Ag Progress Days at Hershey. A soil and land judging contest was also held at the same time. Both events were joint efforts of the Lebanon County Agricultural Extension office and Soil Conservation Service. Prize monies and other assistance were provided by area equipment dealers. The

contest was held on the Harry Bomgardner farm, north of Annville.

Carl Bomberger captured first prize in soil and land judging competition senior division. John Bomgardner was second, while John Moyer was third.

Dean Hoover came in first in the junior soil judging contest, Tim Krall was second and Tim Dundore finished third. Judges for the contest were Karl

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