

# Lancaster Farming

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## FARM TRENDS

A summary of market  
and commodity news  
for the past week

by Dick  
Wanner

### Nothing New Under The Rising Sun

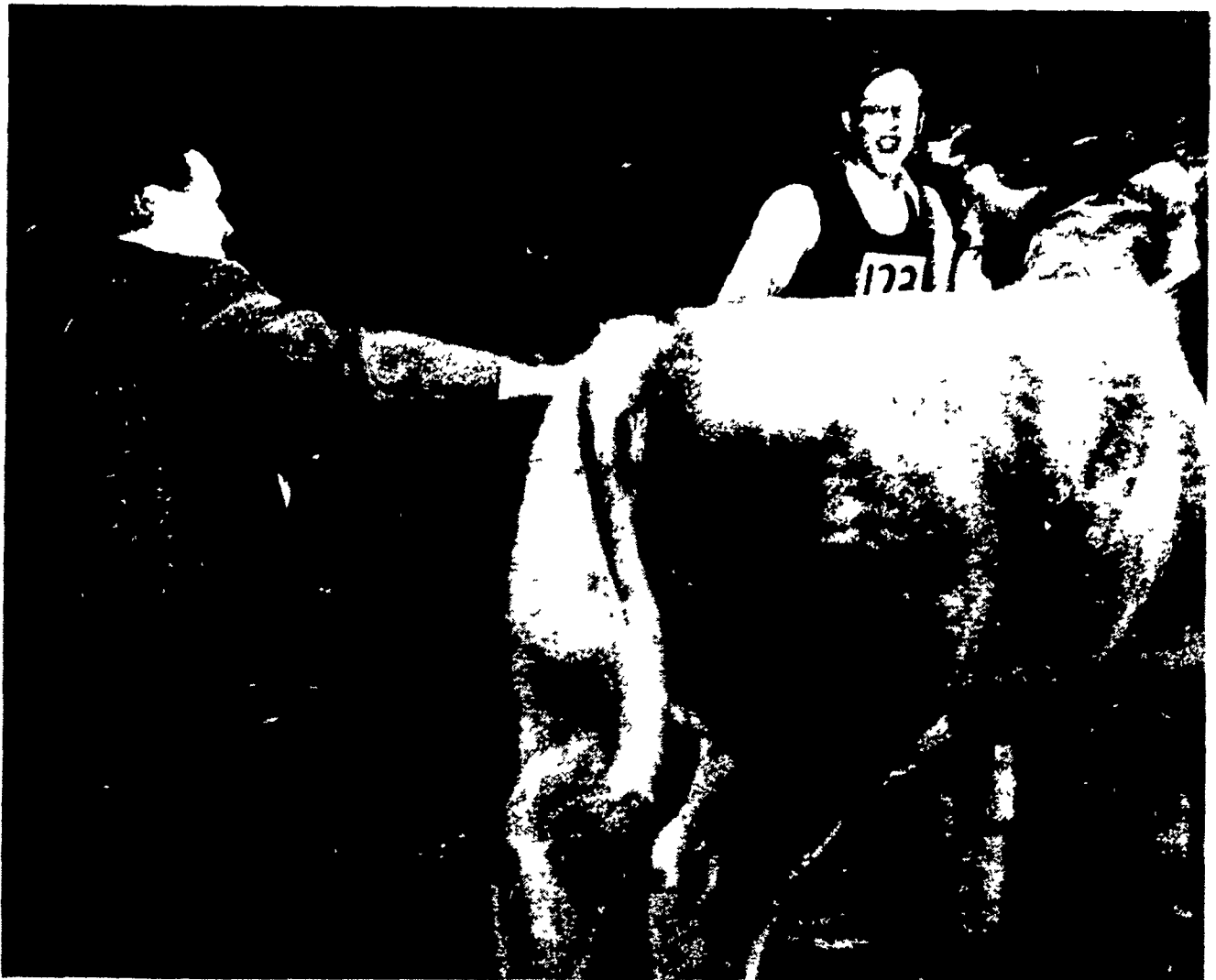
The government was paying farmers to keep their land out of production at a time when there were severe food shortages in other parts of the world. Thus, production controls came under attack politically. As a result, there's a new farm program for 1974 to increase output and reduce fallow land.

But, before you start jumping to conclusions on this one, we should point out the situation above has to do with Japan. That's right, Japan! And, the Japanese government did pay Japanese farmers \$460 per acre last year to divert their rice lands to fallow.

This year, however, the Japanese have changed the program to one of incentives -- direct payments to farmers. The aim: To balance the domestic supply and demand for rice by converting rice land to other crops, principally wheat and soybeans. The reason: Japanese soybean production has declined from 500,000 metric tons in 1955 to 100,000 tons last year, while wheat output dropped from 1.5 million tons to 200,000 tons during the same period.

Under the new program, farmers will get \$535 per acre for converting rice lands to other crops. They'll get direct payments at \$157 per ton for soybeans, \$126 per ton for wheat, plus guaranteed prices of \$472 per ton for soybeans, \$274 per ton for wheat. In addition, wheat farmers in certain areas who increase the size of their operations by more than 12 acres will receive management incentive payments of \$756.

Will it work? Only in part. The potential gross return per acre for rice will be \$1,175, assuming a 1.8 tons per acre yield, plus the guaranteed support price. On the other hand, the potential return for soybeans will be \$1,007 per acre if the yield is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a ton per acre. The gross return for wheat is only \$638, based on a 1 ton per acre yield and if management payments are received.



The biggest grin of James Wylie's young life appeared on his face when judge Herman Purdy slapped the 17-year-old's steer on the rump in the final tension-breaking move of the junior steer

show held Thursday at the Farm Show. Wylie of Nottingham, Chester County, showed a 1250-pound crossbred.

## Thousands Brave Weather For 58th Pa. Farm Show

The weatherman dug deeply into his bag of tricks this week to prepare his

traditional welcome for visitors to the 58th Annual Pennsylvania Farm Show. Nothing could keep the crowds at home, though, as 135,000 visitors appeared on Monday, 155,000 on Tuesday, 170,000 Wednesday, and on Thursday, one of the worst weather days, 175,000 showed up. Thursday's attendance was reportedly a record for the day.

A few records may have been set in competition by local contestants, too, especially in junior beef and sheep competition. In the junior steer show held Thursday, a Chester County youth showed the grand champion animal, a 1250-pound crossbred. Lancaster County had the reserve champion, and all the other top prizes went to either Lancaster or Chester County youths.

A crossbred steer owned by James Wylie, of RD2, Nottingham, was crowned the best junior steer in extremely close judging. Wylie is a member of the Chester

County 4-H Baby Beef Club. Reserve grand champion steer was exhibited by Gary Brubaker, of 345 Running Pump Rd., Lancaster, also a crossbred. A 4-H member, Gary is a member of the Lancaster County 4-H Baby Beef Club.

Champion Angus was shown by Barbara Sickler, of RD1, West Chester, Chester County. Reserve champion Angus was shown by John Holloway, of 32 W. Street Road, West Chester. Both showmen are members of the Chester County 4-H Baby Beef Club. Champion Hereford was exhibited by Ed Hess, of RD1, Strasburg, Lancaster County. Cynthia Shank, of RD1, Conestoga, Lancaster County, showed the reserve champion Hereford. Both are members of the Lancaster County 4-H Baby Beef Club.

Judge for the popular event was Herman Purdy, professor emeritus of animal science at Penn State University.

In beef breeding competition, a reserve championship ribbon went to Marshall C, a senior yearling Angus bull, owned by Conrad L. and Nancy C. Grove, Downington, Chester County. In junior beef breeding, Darlene F.

Rohrbaugh, Seven Valleys RD2, York County, showed the reserve champion Hereford.

Brubaker, Herr and Morgan were names which dominated sheep competition at the Farm Show. In Monday's competition, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Herr,

(Continued on Page 11)

### A New Face For Lancaster Farming

There's a new look to Lancaster Farming. Our page layout has gone from five columns to six, partly because of a need to conserve newsprint and partly from a desire to use a newer type face which we feel is a little more readable.

We hope you like our new face.

### In This Issue

Markets	2-4
Sale Register	30
Farmers Almanac	6
Classified Ads	32
Editorials	10
Homestead Notes	20
Home on the Range	22
Farm Calendar	28
FFA Engine Contest	27
Lancaster County Vo-Ag officers	16



Leon Kreider, left, and Don Trimble said it all with plaques, signs and smiles on Wednesday at the completion of Brown Swiss judging at the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Kreider and Trimble are partners in a Peach Bottom dairy farm.