

# Lancaster Farming

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Steve Arbaugh won the annual Lancaster County 4-H conservation project contest held Tuesday night at the Farm and Home Center. For his

project, shown here, he compared the growth rates of corn planted in different soil types. (See Story on Page 17.)

## Getting Started in the Wine Grape Business

Could wine grapes become Lancaster County's biggest cash crop? Some say yes, and some say maybe. But nobody says "Yes" with more enthusiasm than Howard Miller, Strasburg RD1.

Miller is so enthused, in fact, that he's just completed planting vines on 10 acres of recently purchased land on a hillside within sight of the Susquehanna. "There are 10,000 acres of grapes in Erie County," Miller said. "Here in Lancaster County we could have five to ten times that much acreage. I think

Pennsylvania could become as important to the wine industry as the Nappa Valley in California."

While he is new to viticulture, the science of growing grapes, Miller is no stranger to the grape industry. Two years ago, Miller left his job as an advertising manager at Armstrong Cork Co. to become marketing manager for Keystone Foods, a grape growers cooperative headquarters in the Erie County town of North East. Six months ago, the Miller family moved back to

Lancaster County, partly to start an advertising business, and partly to start a vineyard. He also publishes the Southeast Grape Letter for vineyardists. More information on the newsletter can be had by writing to Miller at Box 373, Bunker Hill Road, R.D.1, Strasburg, 17579.

Two weeks ago, Miller donned coveralls and climbed onto the seat of a rented planter. While a helper, Charles Hess, handed roots to him, Miller planted a grape vine every seven feet. If everything goes according to plan, Miller will harvest his first crop in 1976. And it's quite possible that the vines he planted will still be bearing fruit as the nation observes its 200th anniversary.

Three hybrid grape varieties were included in the root stocks which Miller bought from a New York nursery. There are Chancellor, de Chaunac and Chelois, all of which, Miller feels, can make a good marketable red wine. About a third of his acreage went into each variety.

Miller shied away from the native labrusca grape varieties, like Concord, because they do not make a very fine wine. Most of Erie County's vineyards are planted to Concord, which are sold as table grapes or for grape juice. Although they have shortcomings as

## Dairy Health Project Seeks Farmer Funds

A new approach to solving Pennsylvania's annual \$42 million dairy herd health problem was unveiled Wednesday afternoon in Harrisburg. Under a plan proposed by a dairy herd health task force, individual dairymen and their associations will be asked to contribute funds directly to an interdisciplinary research team at Penn State. The task force is seeking \$18,000 from dairymen this year to help pay for the estimated \$45,000 project cost.

The task force is chaired by A. F. Kish, of Elizabethtown College, and includes among its members R. J. Flipse, assistant dean of Penn State's College of Agriculture. Kish told a small group representing various dairy organizations, extension, farm publications and individual farmers that the task force arose out of need to find a better way to solve herd health problems. "Herd health is a costly

problem," he told the group, "and no one discipline can hope to find the best solution. Penn State has been working on dairy herd health, but they've been doing the job without adequate funding. They are presently working with 15 healthy herds, but they want to do more work with unhealthy herds. That's where our task force enters the picture.

"We can't get any more money from the state or

federal governments for the kind of research we feel is most needed. So we're approaching the feed and fertilizer dealers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, veterinary groups, seed and limestone dealers and individual dairy farmers. We figure this is at least a three-year project, and each year will cost \$45,000.

"So far," Kish said, "the

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## Pennfield Buys Nutrena Plant

Robert Graybill, president of Pennfield Corporation, announced today, Saturday, the purchase of the manufacturing facility and feed business of Nutrena Feeds Division of Cargill, Inc. The Nutrena plant and business, located in Palmyra, Pa., was sold to Pennfield for an undisclosed sum in an agreement between Graybill and David O. Wentzell, Minneapolis, vice president and general manager of Nutrena.

Graybill said the local acquisition enables Pennfield to increase production in order to better serve their existing customers, and at the same time expand their feed availability to more

producers in the regional market area. He said it also gives Pennfield the opportunity to merchandise products through more dealers.

Included in the purchase is Cargill's Controlled-Release Liquid Supplement which will be provided for Pennfield's dairy and beef cattle customers. Nutrena, according to Wentzell, will also continue to market the Controlled-Release Liquid Supplement under its exclusive patent rights.

Graybill, in his statement, said that he expects the Nutrena purchase would enable Pennfield to serve farmers in this area in a better, smoother and more efficient manner.

## FARM TRENDS

by Dick Wanner

### Clean and Green Goes to Senate

The Pennsylvania State House of Representatives voted Tuesday to pass House Bill 1056, the so-called clean and green law designed to provide tax relief for Commonwealth farmers. The bill's final version calls for a 10-year tax rollback, a 10-acre or \$2000 minimum gross to qualify for an agricultural use classification, and a 10-acre per year splitoff provision. The bill was hammered out in over a year of debate. Environmentalists and the Pennsylvania Grange still oppose the 10-acre per year splitoff provision, claiming that it will cripple the intent of the bill. If the Senate acts quickly on the bill, it could become law by mid-June, since there is reportedly no present possibility of a veto by Governor Shapp.

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With a capable assist from Clarence Hess, left, Howard Miller tries his hand at planting grape vines. Miller, who operates a local ad-

vertising agency, is one of Lancaster County's newest wine grape growers, and hopes to harvest his first crop in 1976.

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