

# Lancaster Farming

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Three educators about to embark on a program unique to the state and possibly the country discuss their plans for September when the Hinkletown Alternative School, seen in the background, will open its doors

to the first 75 students. Dr. Robert Herr, school supervisor, is pointing out the future location of crop test plots to the school's two academic teachers, Stanley Smith, center, and Gordon Gingrich.

## First of its Kind . . .

# Hinkletown Alternative School to Open Sept.

What may well be the first school of its kind in the country will open its doors in September. The Hinkletown Alternative School, part of Lancaster County's Garden Spot School District, will accept 75 students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades during its first year of operation. Students will have a varied program of academic training along with a strong vocational emphasis.

religious beliefs and their desire to maintain their standards—set by these beliefs, they have particularly resisted sending their children to public secondary schools.

“At one time, most of these children attended public school through the eighth grade. As the kindergarten through sixth, followed by seventh through twelfth grade pattern developed,

many continued to attend through grade six and then transferred to a parochial school. Here they either completed eighth grade and attended a ‘three-hour school’ until becoming 15 years of age, or stopped schooling at age 15 on a farm or domestic permit.”

In the report, Herr pointed out that the parochial schools are limited to a basic

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According to Dr. Robert Herr, who will be the school's supervisor, the alternative school program is geared to the educational needs of conservative farmers - mostly members of the plain sects - in the eastern portion of Lancaster County. In the introduction to a program prepared for the school, Herr explains the rationale for alternative education in his school district.

The intent of the school, he says, is to reach “... children who are members of the conservative Mennonite and Amish faiths, which constitute an important segment of our community. Because of their

## FARM TRENDS by Dick Wanner

### Plummeting Prices Hurt Area Farmers

Egg, hog and cattle prices have zoomed downward in the past few weeks, and local farmers are hurting. Eggs at 32-cents and live beef prices under \$36 a hundredweight are sure to sting many producers where it hurts the most - in the bank accounts. The only thing keeping some farmers solvent is the fact that last year was one of the best ever for farm income. High feed costs make the problem even worse. High retail meat prices, which cause consumer resistance, are also taking their toll.

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# Crowds Show Up for Tax Relief Meetings

Close to 200 people turned out for a farm tax meeting Tuesday night at Owen J. Roberts High School. This was the first of three meetings this week to help farmers and other Chester County landowners learn more about Pennsylvania Act 515 provisions. Act 515 allows municipalities to grant preferential tax treatment to farmers and other open space land owners. In order to qualify for a lower tax rate in 1975, Chester County landowners must apply for relief by July 1 of this year.

of encouragement.

Landowners in counties which have adopted the Act 515 provisions can be considered for tax relief. However, not all counties have adopted the measure. Chester County did so because the entire county was reassessed last year, a move which means higher

tax bills in 1975 for all landowners. Many counties haven't adopted Act 515 because House Bill 1056 is still pending in the Pennsylvania Senate. HB 1056 is the preferential tax measure which grew out of the success of the so-called Clean and Green constitutional

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## In Lebanon Co. . . .

# Ruth Miller Named New Dairy Princess

Ruth L. Miller, 20, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy F. Miller, Myerstown, was selected as the 1974 Lebanon County Dairy Princess at the annual banquet and pageant held Thursday evening, June 13, at the Mt. Zion Fire Hall.

Ruth graduated from Eastern Lebanon County High School and is also a graduate of the Licensed Practical Nursing Program at the Lebanon Vo-Tech School. She was active in 4-H work and is presently employed as an L.P.N. by the E.C.C. Retirement Village in Myerstown. Ruth's parents own 55 Holstein cows.

The runner-up title went to Sharon Bomberger, 18, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

Mark H. Bomberger, RD1, Lebanon.

Sharon graduated from Cedar Crest High School and is presently a sophomore at West Chester State College, majoring in elementary education with a music concentration.

Sharon has also been active in 4-H, holding many offices and attended the National Congress in Chicago. Sharon also comes from a Holstein farm.

The 1974 Miss Congeniality Award was captured by Mary Ann Reist, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman K. Reist of RD1, Lebanon.

Mary Ann is a graduate of Cedar Crest High School and

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Ruth Miller (center) the 1974 Lebanon County Dairy Princess, is shown with runner-up, Sharon

Bomberger (right) and Donna Bennetch the 1973 Lebanon County Dairy Princess.

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