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Lancaster Farming

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Lancaster Farming Photo

Although his company has been operating at a loss for the past eight months, Jerry Hatcher, president of the Lebanon Valley Cattle Company,

isn't worried about the future of the beef business. In fact, he says, "I wish we had 10,000 head right now."

They Use "Byproducts" for Feed . . .

Pa.'s Biggest Feedlot Aims to get Bigger

"My biggest regret right now is that we don't have 10,000 steers on feed instead of just 1200," Jerry Hatcher told Lancaster Farming this week. Hatcher is president of the Lebanon Valley Cattle Co., Newmanstown RD1, and oversees the operation of what is reportedly Pennsylvania's biggest cattle feedlot. As Hatcher spoke in the air-conditioned comfort of his well-furnished, roomy office, a truck pulled away from the feedlot bearing a load of cattle. Every one of the animals on the truck was sold at a \$150 loss.

like beef and they'll buy it. In the next few months, I'm convinced that cattle feeders are going to return to profitable operations."

Hatcher raised his hand, his thumb and forefinger an inch apart. "And when the rest of the industry is making this much money," he said, a broad smile creasing his face, "we'll be making this much." The gap between his thumb and forefinger widened to a good

three inches. While the gesture could hardly be incorporated in a balance sheet, it certainly conveyed Hatcher's enthusiasm for the beef business and for his company's position in that industry.

The Lebanon Valley Cattle Company had its genesis some 30 years ago, when Kirk Foulke opened a feedlot behind the Pennco Distillery

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Cheryl Rousseau To Teach

Cheryl Rousseau, East Broad St., New Holland, assumed the position of Environmental Agriculture teacher at Garden Spot High School on Monday, July 8th. A native of Riverside, Rhode Island, Miss Rousseau recently received a Bachelor of Science in Botany from the University of Rhode Island, and is certified to teach agribusiness, natural

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Cheryl Rousseau

PYFA to Convene in Lancaster

Some 250 members of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association will be in Lancaster County on July 1st to 20 for their annual convention.

Convention headquarters will be Lancaster's Hilton Inn. There will be business meetings and banquets both days of the convention, as well as tours or area farms on both Friday and Saturday.

Friday's tour will include Len-Lyn farm, owned by the Galen Course family at Schoeneck, the manure dryer at Pennfield Corp's layer operation near

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"We've been operating at a loss for the past eight months," Hatcher said as the truck pulled out. "But it's going to get a lot better. It has to get better, because if it doesn't, the cattle industry in this country is going to be wiped out. A whole industry can't continue producing at a loss or even at a break-even point without going under. The cattle industry isn't going to go under. People

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FARM TRENDS

by Dick Wanner

Tobacco Exports, Domestic Use Rise

Exports and domestic use of U. S. tobacco for the 1974-74 marketing year not only are surpassing the previous season's levels, but also are exceeding 1973's total tobacco output. Thus, carryover of tobacco stocks will be about 8 percent below last year's 3.3 billion pounds and the smallest amount since 1947, according to figures released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The big gain came in cigarette production, which was up about 5 percent. Cigars, snuff and smoking tobacco continued their decline of recent years. For the year ending June 30, large cigar and cigarillo consumption may fall about 4 percent below the 7.1 billion of 1973-74. Small cigar output is off 40 percent, but chewing tobacco production may gain a little.

Disappearance of cigar binder and dark air-cured tobaccos in the current marketing year may gain a

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Sandy Ginder

Outstanding Youth In Floriculture

Attractive and vivacious Sandy Ginder, is one FFA member who is developing her talents and skills in floriculture to the fullest degree.

Sandy, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Ginder, RD3, Elizabethtown, graduated this spring from Mt. Joy Vo-Tech and Elizabethtown High School.

At the Vo-Tech school, Sandy was enrolled in the floriculture class under the direction of Daniel Helwig. The course is designed to prepare students for work in wholesale and retail floriculture operations.

Sandy was an active FFA member, representing the Vo-Tech school in many floriculture contests. The contests usually involve designing arrangements and corsages and judging arrangements and plants.

Last year at the FFA State Days, Sandy was third in the floriculture contest and received the honor of competing at the Eastern State Exposition in Springfield, Mass., where she captured first prize in individual competition and first place in team competition.

This spring at the FFA State Days, Sandy placed fourth in the competition.

She has not confined her competing to FFA however, but has entered several local contests between schools in Lancaster County and has won first place in many, including the Creative Women's Day contest sponsored by the Lancaster

Jr. Women's Club.

Sandy is also active in the youth group at Chiques Church of the Brethren and participated on the Elizabethtown Rifle Squad.

Sewing is one of her favorite hobbies and she has designed and made many of her own outfits.

Sandy is one of the increasing number of young women that have begun to participate in the FFA Chapters over the State. When asked how people viewed her choice to join an organization primarily comprised of boys Sandy explained that FFA represented an organization where she could use her skills in competition.

"At first," she said, "people asked me why I chose to join FFA."

"They wanted to know why I was in Future Farmers, but after everyone got used to me they were very friendly and helpful."

Sandy participated in the co-op education program which meant going to school in the morning and working in the afternoons. Sandy worked at a flower shop and put in almost 25 hours a week.

Her work experience and dedication in learning the field of floriculture led to her being named the Outstanding Senior in Floriculture at the Mt. Joy Vo-Tech School this spring.

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Lancaster Farming Photo

Sandy Ginder has demonstrated her talents in floriculture by capturing first place in floral design in many FFA and local competitions.