

# Lancaster Farming

Vol. 19 No. 43

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, September 7, 1974

\$2.00 Per Year



Dr. Thomas Conrad led nearly a hundred cattlemen and guests on a tour of Beechdale Farms where the

first Pa. Simmental Cattle Field Day was held on Wednesday.

## Crowd of 600 Attend Rae Hix Open House

"How many of you cattle producers out there are making money?" Les Burdette asked a sometimes shivering Berks County audience on Wednesday afternoon. To no one's surprise, not a single hand went up. Burdette threw out his query at an open house on the Rae Hix farm near Mohrsville.

A crowd of more than 600 people attended to see Hix's dairy-beef confinement operation, his dairy barn, broiler house, modern calf barn, and a hog finishing

house which is now under construction.

Burdette is an extension beef specialist at Penn State, and he came to the meeting with two of his Penn State colleagues, Dr. Samuel B. Guss, extension veterinarian, and H. Louis Moore, extension livestock economist.

Burdette's remarks centered around the need to feed cattle as economically as possible, and he discussed the methods producers use to keep from throwing away feed dollars.

"The biggest mistake cattlemen make is in feeding too much protein," Burdette said. "For top efficiency, you must take into account the age of the animal, its size, rate of gain and even the breed. A 900-pound Angus, for example, gaining at the rate of two to two-and-a-half pounds a day doesn't need as high a percentage of protein as a Holstein of the same weight."

The reason for that, Burdette noted, is that the English beef breeds like the

[Continued on Page 20]

## Busy Young Farmer

by: Melissa Piper

Lloyd Hoover, is a young man who has been awarded many honors this summer for his work in FFA and as a young farmer.

Lloyd lives on a farm in Leola with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hoover and while he helps his father do the farm chores he has also been busy with his own veal calves and market hogs.

The president of the Grassland FFA Chapter, Lloyd has been active in FFA activities on the local and state level.

Early this summer he was named Poultryman of the Year by the Victor Weaver Company in New Holland and also earned a trip to the National Co-op Conference in Manhattan, Kansas; for showing outstanding

abilities in the co-op program.

When asked what his feelings were concerning the co-op program Lloyd explained, "learning about farmer's Co-ops gives you an idea of what business is really like especially in agriculture."

As with the case of many other FFA members, Lloyd got his start in raising market hogs by winning a county "chain animal". From that time on he has built up his herd of Durocs and shows them at numerous fairs and shows in the area.

When Lloyd realized that he would need more room for his operation, he bought a mobile home that had been gutted by fire and remodeled it using half for his veal

[Continued On Page 13]



Lloyd bought a trailer that had been damaged by fire and converted it into a housing facility for his veal calves and hogs. He also included an office where he keeps his records.

## Large Crowd Attends Simmental Field Day

by: Melissa Piper

Nearly a hundred interested cattlemen and guests convened Wednesday at the Beechdale Farms in Bird-in-Hand for the first Pa. Simmental Cattle Association Field Day.

Beechdale Farms, located in the center of the Dutch Country, is owned by Dr. Thomas Conrad, who was recently elected as president of the Pa. Simmental Cattle Association.

Dr. Conrad led the visitors on a guided tour of the farm in the morning explaining about the Simmental Breed of Cattle and showing his own herd of 90 Simmental Crossbred animals.

A unique judging contest was the next activity on the agenda.

Contestants were asked to judge six cows not on their physical appearance as in

many other judging contests, but rather on their calf producing ability. An important aspect of the contest was to judge the cow which had produced the heaviest calf at weaning.

First place honors in the judging competition went to E. G. Schubert, Canajoharie, New York; with second place honors going to Randolph Kohr, Dallastown, Pa.

Following a noon luncheon, Dr. Lowell Wilson, Professor of Animal Science at Penn State and well known animal researcher spoke on the advantages of crossbreeding cattle.

Wilson pointed out that Simmental cattle would be of good quality to use in a crossbreeding program especially since they have

[Continued on Page 16]



Vernon and Allegra Leininger own and operate the Ko-Ka-Le-Ko Egg Ranch at Denver RD2. Mr. Leininger is currently serving as president of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation.

## Denver Man Heads Poultry Federation

Poultrymen account for the second largest farming enterprise in Pennsylvania, and the Commonwealth itself is one of the nation's top poultry states, standing fourth in egg income and tenth in broiler output. Lancaster County is the most productive poultry county in the state and ranks seventh in the nation in terms of poultry products produced.

It's not too surprising, then, to learn that a Lancaster County poultryman has been elected to head the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation. He's Vernon Leininger, owner-operator of the Ko-Ka-Le-Ko Egg Ranch at Denver RD2.

Leininger runs a diversified family farm operation, with a beef and hog feeding operation in addition to the layer houses. Just three years ago, the Leiningers

sold their dairy cows to concentrate on egg production. That was the year they stopped being producers only to become producer-packers.

Leininger, his wife Allegra, and their children David, Phillip, Michael and Rose Ann, are all involved in the farming operation. So are Leininger's father, C. Warren Leininger, and a few other relatives. Eggs from some 30,000 caged layers are processed and packed daily in the airy packing room at the farm. The eggs are sold locally to restaurants and retail stores, and wholesaler through a cooperative marketing agreement with Plain and Fancy Egg Ranch Elizabethtown.

All the feed for the chickens is bought, as is the hog feed. The steers are fed

[Continued on Page 14]