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One of the more unusual sights at the Solanco Fair was this picnic table which became a resting place for youngsters walking their steers.

Solanco vo-ag teacher Arba Henry, left, is pictured talking to one of his students as the show-bound steer tugs on his halter.

Dale Nolt Will Receive FFA Degree

"As long as there is enough land, I want to farm." Those are the words of a young Manheim farmer who will soon be receiving FFA's distinguished American Farmer Degree.

Dale Nolt and his wife Sandy reside at RD1, Manheim and have been in a farming partnership with his father, Martin Nolt, since he graduated from Manheim Central High School in 1971.

Since that time he has been raising market hogs, steers and chickens on a 100 acre farm south of Manheim.

Dale explained the operation more fully stating, "we raise approximately 1000 market hogs a year and have 50 sows farrowing twice a year."

"We also raise market steers and grow most of the

corn needed to fatten them out."

The Nolts also raise laying chickens along with their other enterprises.

While in high school, Nolt was active in the Manheim FFA serving as president in his senior year and secretary in his junior. He also served on many committees including the recreation and scholarship groups.

Although Dale did not show his animals he did win numerous prizes for his project books at local and state levels.

Nolt applied for the American Farming Degree under the agricultural production phase of the program. The award is also based on his leadership abilities and activities in FFA. Dale will be receiving

the award on October 17th during the FFA National Convention in Kansas City.

When asked what being in FFA meant to him, Dale explained that FFA held a lot

[Continued On Page 22]

E-Town Fair Draws Large Number of Exhibitors

Wednesday evening marked the opening of the Elizabethtown Marketplace Fair a new feature for the people of that area since their farm fair halted several years ago.

While the Marketplace fair did not have livestock competition as will its county counterparts, the response in the produce and homemaking divisions were overwhelming.

The several tents which had been set up to house the exhibits were overflowing with pumpkins, tomatoes, peppers and many other garden products along with knitted items, sewing projects and canned goods.

Arnold Lueck, Associate County Agent for Lancaster served as judge for the produce while Doris Thomas, County Home Economist judged the homemaking divisions.

The response in the gardening and homemaking divisions were so overwhelming that the judging had to be continued the following day. Results of the show were not available at press time and will be reported next week

New Attendance Marks at Solanco

The 25th annual Southern Lancaster County Community Fair was officially opened on Wednesday evening with an address by Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, James A. McHale. People had been coming to the fair since early in the morning, though, to enter exhibits, set up stands and just to look around. Attendance kept building throughout the day, and by nightfall, an estimated 10,000 people had come to the biggest Solanco Fair ever. Thursday's attendance also soared to new highs.

Kenneth Rutt, Quarryville RD2, is general manager of this year's fair, and he told Lancaster Farming that the fair has really grown, especially in the past three years.

"The number of exhibits has been increasing at the rate of 40 percent a year," he said. "This year we had 158 entries in the dairy division. Just a few years ago, we just had 50 or 60 entries."

As proof of the dairy division's growth, Rutt pointed to the longest tent ever erected by the York Awning Company, a 320-foot long sea of canvas. Even that proved to be too small for all the dairy entries. Some of the smaller animals were forced to share stalls, and some last-minute entries were even turned away.

The Solanco experience has been unlike that of some other community fairs in Lancaster County, and we asked Rutt why they're succeeding where others have failed. "We have a lot of people here who are willing to pitch in and help get the job done," he said. "They keep talking about a county fair, but I think we can accomplish a lot more with local fairs that are well-supported by their communities. I'd hate to give up what we've got here for a county fair."

Rutt pointed to a plot of cleared land just off the Quarryville Community Park. "We just bought that land - signed the papers on Monday night - and we'll probably put some kind of building on it," Rutt said. "We're growing, and we're going to continue to grow

because we have a lot of interest in our fair."

Results follow from the various farm events conducted Wednesday and Thursday.

DAIRY SHOW
Ayrshire

Warren Schmuck showed
[Continued on Page 14]



Bob Peifer, Kirkwood R1, was the top FFA tractor driver on Thursday at the Solanco Fair. Tops in the adult division was Ken Rutt, who also serves as the fair's general manager.

The Future of James McHale

by Dick Wanner

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture James A. McHale told Lancaster Farming on Wednesday night that neither he nor any other cabinet officer could say with certainty what he or she would be doing after the elections in November. "If Governor Shapp is reelected, and if he asks me to stay on as Secretary of Agriculture, that's what I'll do," McHale said. "I'm not going to ask the boss to let me go, and I'm not going to ask him to keep me on. My future is up to him, and I'm going to do whatever he wants me to do."

The secretary's statement came on the heels of rumors

that he had decided to step down from his post he's held for the past four years. McHale is a dirt farmer - a rarity in top agricultural posts - an NFU organizer. His administration has been the most rambunctious in recent memory, and his tactics have won him no small measure of criticism. His critics have not gone entirely unanswered, however.

"The thing I like best about Jim McHale," we were told recently by one of the state's top farm leaders, "is that he doesn't feel he has to clear his every action with Penn State. I think the university was beginning to

[Continued On Page 17]



Dale Nolt has been in partnership with his father since 1971 raising steers, market hogs and chickens.

In This Issue

Farm Calendar	10
Markets	2-4
Sale Register	56
Farmers Almanac	6
Classified Ads	24
Editorials	10
Homestead Notes	34
Home on the Range	39
Organic Living	41
Farm Women Calendar	37
Lancaster Co. DHIA	12
Chester Co DHIA	18
Jr Cooking Edition	40