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Standing before samples of their photographic handiwork are the five winners in this year's conservation photography contest sponsored by the Lancaster County Conservation District. Seated are Carolyn Jones, 1131 Country Club Drive, Lancaster,

left, and Jane Dalrymple, 379 Blossom Hill Drive, Lancaster. Standing, left to right, are Jordan Lambert, 96 Barre Drive, Lancaster, Judy Simon, 86 Barre Drive, Lancaster, and Eric Haas, 242 W. Ferdinand St., Manheim.

Winners Announced In 3rd Conservation Photo Contest

Scenes of beauty mingled with images of despair at the Lancaster County Conservation District office in the Farm and Home Center on Wednesday. The occasion was the district's third annual conservation photography contest. Entries were categorized either beautiful or unsightly aspects of the environments.

Henry Hackman, the district's executive assistant and coordinator for the contest, called it the best one so far. A total of 17 high school students entered the contest, submitting 47 prints and 28 slides.

The two first place winners, both Manheim Township High School seniors, were Judy Simon, 86

Barre Drive, Lancaster, and Carolyn Jones, 1131 Country Club Drive, Lancaster.

Miss Simon's winning entry in the beautiful category showed a stem of bleeding hearts in full blossom. The Jones girl captured a first place in the unsightly competition with a

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Trudy Nissley

Award Winning 4-H Photographer

by: Melissa Piper

Youngsters from the Mt. Joy area of Lancaster County have always been noted for their outstanding 4-H work and Trudy Nissley is no exception.

Trudy, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Nissley, RD1, Mt. Joy, and has been active in many phases of 4-H work that range from sewing to cake decorating.

This summer, Trudy had a special interest in 4-H however, as she was a member of the Mt. Joy Photography Club. The club, which was coached by Dan Hoy, an employee of Michael's Camera Shop at Park City, won some prestigious awards this year including having four

member's pictures sent to the National 4-H Congress to be placed on exhibition.

Trudy's picture which was entitled "Summer Flowers" won state honors at the 4-H State Festival this summer and was selected to be placed on exhibit at the Congress. For the Nissley family that was an honor but a greater one lay in store however when Trudy's brother, Darwin also exhibited a state award winning photo. In fact all four photos judged the best in the state, were from members in the Mt. Joy Club.

Trudy explained that both her and her brother were interested in photography

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Trudy Nissley, RD1, Mt. Joy holds some of the photographs that her and her brother, Darwin took as members of the Mt. Joy Photography club.

Still not at break-even point . . .

Prices for Live Cattle Dip, Then Come Back

A combination of Thanksgiving lethargy and blocked roads kicked live cattle prices down to a two-year low on midwestern markets this week, but by Thursday, prices appeared to be edging back nearer to the break-even point. Although that break-even point is still way above the current market price for live cattle. Local auction prices moved virtually in lock-step with the Midwestern auctions.

Local and national markets continue to fluctuate just under the 40-cents per-pound mark. Lancaster County agricultural agent Maxwell M. Smith said Friday morning he believes the break-even point for most beef producers here is anywhere from 45- to 55-cents a pound.

"Corn's selling for \$3.50 a bushel now, which is about six-cents a pound. If it takes eight pounds of corn to put a

pound of meat on a steer, and if a farmer feeds corn that he's paid \$3.50 for, it'll cost him 48-cents for every pound of gain he gets on the steer. So, if he sells the steer for 40-cents a pound, he loses eight-cents on every pound. That's why a lot of farmers are selling their corn instead of feeding steers."

Merton McCoy, a Lancaster cattle dealer, echoed Smith's comments about cattle prices. "The low market we've had in the past few months has really hurt a lot of our cattle feeders," McCoy said. "Some of them have told me they're losing \$150 on every head they sell."

McCoy also noted that the local auctions seemed to stay

right with the prices in the Midwest. "Prices here reacted right away. Monday in Lancaster was draggy, and Wednesday was nothing. On Thursday, though, the Midwestern markets seemed to put back just about everything they lost earlier in the week, and the New Holland market stayed right in step with prices out there."

McCoy pointed out that a drop in beef prices has been a traditional occurrence after the Thanksgiving holiday and the market seems to have gotten over that slump.

No big turnaround in live cattle prices is foreseen by McCoy. "Some of the small local butchers will buy

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Many Here Begin Stripping Tobacco

by Dick Wanner

Cold weather this week sent many tobacco farmers into their warm, cozy stripping rooms to prepare their crops for the buyers who'll be out looking around one of these weeks.

Some of the crop has reportedly already been sold at a price of 70 to 75-cents a pound to buyers from Maryland and North Carolina. This tobacco, though, was a light-colored Maryland variety which will probably be going into either cigarettes or the export market.

Thursday morning we drove through the New Holland area, looking for the piles of tobacco stalks and the smoking chimneys that go along with tobacco stripping. All the growers we talked to had grown Pennsylvania type tobaccos, and they were hoping to get 60-cents a pound for their crops.

Norman Snyder, New Holland RD1, just outside Hinkletown, was in his shed with his son. We talked to them while they stripped and baled the leaves from their improved narrow leaf tobacco which, Snyder said, looked to be about one of the best crops he'd ever grown.

Not far from Snyder's farm, we talked to a pair of brothers who planted ten acres of Pennbel tobacco this year. "It's the best crop I've ever seen in the nine years I've been growing tobacco," one brother told us. "Last year we had 2100 pounds to the acre, and I think we're going to be doing better this year."

Noah Wenger, Ephrata RD2, has 20 acres of Pennbel hanging in his tobacco sheds. Wenger figures his yield will be good this year - at least 1800 pounds of pull off tobacco to the acre - although he did lose about two acres to the early frost.

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Pennfield Plans New Lancaster Feed Plant

Pennfield Corporation, a Lancaster-based feed firm, unveiled plans this week for a new \$3 million feed manufacturing facility to be constructed in Hempfield Industrial Park.

Final plans for the plant are pending zoning approvals from both East and West Hempfield Townships. Financing arrangements with Commonwealth National Bank have already been made through the Lancaster Industrial Development Authority.

Pennfield president Robert B. Graybill said they hope to break ground for the project sometime before spring. The plant will employ 15 people and will have a feed manufacturing capacity in excess of 50 tons per hour.

Most of the plant capacity will be devoted to the manufacture of poultry feed for the firm's area customers.