

# Lancaster Farming

Serving The Central and Southeastern Pennsylvania Areas

Vol. 20 No. 8

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, January 4, 1975

\$2.00 Per Year



Ken Longenecker, RD, Lititz, has been spending many hours for the past few weeks, walking his steer and

getting it in the correct stance - a fete quite important in competition.

## 4-H's Ready Steers For Pa. Farm Show

Although the Pa. State Farm Show annually offers many attractions, perhaps the most popular event throughout the years has been the 4-H Baby Beef Show and Sale.

For the youngsters who participate in the competition the show represents the climax of a year of hard work and effort in preparing their steers for showing.

This past week in Lancaster County, some 36 youths took to the barns, armed with buckets, brushes, combs and other paraphernalia to begin the final preparation of their steers for the state competition. Aided by the additional time off for the holidays, these young 4-Hers spent hours washing and combing their animals,

clipping underlines and tails. And when they finished the beauty treatment for the day, it was exercise time, which meant a hour or so walking their steers to insure muscle tone was of the best degree.

Most of the youngsters bought their steers early last spring in either March or April. For the first few

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## Corn, Tobacco Roundups Held

"This is the best tobacco crop I've seen in Lancaster County in the past two or three years," L. C. Whitmore told a group of tobacco growers on Wednesday at the Farm and Home Center. Whitmore, a local buyer for the American Tobacco Company, was one of the two judges at the annual Lancaster County tobacco roundup. The other judge was Maurice Hostetter, a buyer for A. K. Mann Tobacco Company.

"Every contestant here can be proud of the tobacco he brought in," Hostetter added. "The weight is better than it's been in the past four years. If this is an indication

of the average Lancaster County tobacco, we've got an exceptionally good crop."

Roy M. Rohrer, Strasburg R1, won three of the six classes, including the champion wrapper tobacco, in his 38th year of tobacco competition.

Eugene Rohrer, Strasburg R1, showed the champion filler, Michael Rohrer, Strasburg R1, had the champion binder, and Timothy Hostetter, Manheim R1, had the first place long wrapper.

There were 114 entries in the six classes of this year's contest.

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Nelson Martin has served his FFA chapter as vice-president and news reporter throughout the past four years. See story page 20.

## Agriculture 1975 Some Predictions

by Dick Wanner

Many farmers and agribusinessmen will remember 1974 as a year of sharp jumps in the cost of doing business and equally sharp drops in returns. Economically, it was a year to live through, to survive if possible, and most of us - farmers and non-farmers alike - breathed a sigh of relief as 1974 slunk out the back door.

But then, we have to ask about 1975: Will it be worse? Can it be worse? Might there be a ray of sunshine poking its way through the clouded fiscal outlook of 1975? To answer those questions, we called on a number of people who've done a lot of thinking about the prospects for their particular areas of business. We asked them to crawl out

on a limb and tell us about 1975.

The feeling generally seems to be that 1975 is going to be another tough year. It's take sharp management to make a profit in the next 12 months, but there are profits to be made in the farming business. While input costs

are expected to remain high, there's a chance that some prices may fall. Feed costs, particularly, might edge downwards if spring planting intentions are high.

Possibly the best portent for 1975 is that there are no major clouds on the horizon.

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### Farm Show Issue



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## Farm Show Opens - Have Your \$ Ready

For years now, the Pennsylvania Farm Show has been one of the very last big farm shows with completely free admission. But times change, and with them the Farm Show. This year, for the first time, there will be a \$1 parking fee for visitors to the largest agricultural event in the Northeast.

Farm Show Director Wellington Smith explained the change by saying that the Farm Show appropriation from the State legislature was being stretched thinner and thinner by inflation, and this was one way of gaining some revenue from the throngs which visit the show.

Does he think the parking fee will discourage visitors from attending the Farm Show? "I'm sure people aren't going to stay home from the Farm Show just because they've got to pay a dollar to park," Smith told Lancaster Farming this week in his Harrisburg office. "One thing we will be able to do is get a better count of the people who attend."

Smith, a former Crawford County commissioner, has been Farm Show director

since 1972. His efforts at cost cutting have earned him quite a bit of praise from the secretary of agriculture's office. "But we've cut down

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## Keystone Degree Winners

Outstanding FFA members throughout the state are honored every year with Keystone Farmer Degrees. Degrees are presented to the top two percent of the state's FFA members on Wednesday of Farm Show week during the annual Pennsylvania FFA convention in the Forum of the Pennsylvania FFA convention in the Form of the Pennsylvania Education Building in Harrisburg. Some 95 FFA members from Lancaster Farming's five-county coverage area will receive Keystone Degrees this year. Biographies on these outstanding youths from Lancaster, Berks, Chester, Lebanon and York Counties begin on page 42.