

Ag



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Apple crop causes concern

By Dieter Krieg
NEW DANVILLE — Some apple trees are carrying such heavy loads this year that a few have actually toppled over from the weight. Richard Haas of Cherry Hill Orchards, here, walked through his apple grove with a mixture of pride and concern. He says this year's yield will be the biggest he has ever had and color and quality are very good too.

"How are you going to sell

this many apples?" I asked the bearded young fruit grower. Haas answered with a worried facial expression and crossed fingers on both of his hands. A pick-your-own program began Thursday, which may lighten the load.

The International Apple Institute, of which Haas is a member, predicts more than 175 million bushels of apples will be produced nationwide this year. "Suffice it to say," an IAI newsletter points out,

"the industry has its greatest marketing challenge in modern history." The 175 million bushel crop is the largest since 1934 and comes at a time when demand has fallen off.

R. Brian How, fruit specialist at Cornell University, who spoke at an agricultural outlook conference earlier this month noted that apple growers probably face greater uncertainties than usual this

fall. Haas agrees with that prediction.

In presenting his statement last month, How remarked: "The market for fresh apples was strong early this season, but there is apprehension concerning future trends and the level of processor prices. Processors incurred high costs for sugar and containers last season, and some are reported to be planning a reduction in pack

[Continued on Page 20]

Crowds visit Solanco Fair

By Dieter Krieg
QUARRYVILLE - The Solanco Fair didn't officially open until Wednesday night, but no one would ever have known it by the amount of activity going on and the size of the crowds.

A number of visitors remarked that the Wednesday crowd was every bit as large as the crowds usually seen on Thursday and Friday nights. The flood of people continued into Thursday in spite of rain during the afternoon, and

fair officials expressed gratitude and satisfaction for the large turnout.

Bob Wenger, chairman of the dairy cattle department, observed that three excellent Holsteins were shown in the aged cow class, and commented on the "real good quality" animals that were being exhibited. Holsteins completely filled the new dairy barn.

Among the feature events at the fair on Wednesday and Thursday were a baby parade, a tug-of-war, trail-

bike rodeo, tractor driving contests, judging contests of all kinds, with more to come on Friday and Saturday. One of the surprises was that the new exhibit building, which was not expected to be completed for in-door food service, had been completed. Original plans called for crushed stone floor by fair time, but the cement floor became reality, and visitors were treated to full course meals inside and out of the rain.

The highlight Wednesday

night was the baby parade, which had proud parents pulling their children along in all kinds of floats depicting various themes. Floats included a "Puff the Magic Dragon", a Conestoga Wagon, Bicentennial themes, the Flintstones and Dino, and Tweety and Sylvester.

Shouts and cheers during the tug-of-war could be heard all over town when FFA students from county

[Continued on Page 17]

Ag exhibits shown at E-Town

By Melissa Piper
The second annual Elizabethtown Market Place Fair and Festival opened its doors to visitors on Wednesday evening, Sept. 17 following a ribbon cutting ceremony, which included Morley Mays, president of The Elizabethtown College and honorary chairman of the event. Gary Myer, Joe Maher, and Bill Hershey, co-chairmen of the festival conducted a tour of the marketplace fair following the opening event.

The festival is sponsored

by the Elizabethtown Jaycees and for the second year in a row, has invited residents of the area and county to exhibit agricultural goods as well as needlework and crafts in the market place fair.

Rows of fresh vegetables including ripe red tomatoes and baskets of herbs lined the shelves in the fair exhibit building. Also sharing the limelight were pumpkins and squash in various shapes and tobacco from area farms.

There appeared to be no

shortage of canning jars and lids - at least at the fair, for long rows of cherries, pickles and jams were evident and a popular sight at the event.

A host of baked goods which ranged from breads to thickly iced cakes were also awarded prizes and were auctioned off on Wednesday evening with proceeds going to the borough park improvement.

Catching much of the limelight at the event was a display of "super tractors" sponsored by the Pa. Tractor Pullers Association. Bearing

little resemblance to the regular farm tractors, the exhibit brought much attention.

Agriculture Awards

Grains and vegetables:
Division A - Hybrid Field Corn - 1st - James Ruth, Elizabethtown R1; 2nd - Steve Kauffman, E-Town R1; Indian Corn - 1st - Mrs. Ray Mull, 246 Skyview Lane, Lititz; Popcorn - 1st - Mrs. Ray Mull, 246 Skyview Lane, Lititz; 2nd - Doug Fackler, Hershey R1.

[Continued on Page 27]

Jeff Keeney

Hort major wins award

By Melissa Piper
YORK - Horticulture and landscaping are becoming increasingly popular fields of study for youths and one young man who has already shown promise in this area of agriculture is Jeff Keeney of York.

Jeff is presently a sophomore at the York Campus of Penn State, majoring in horticulture and is planning to transfer to the main campus in November.

Although Jeff had been interested in growing house

plants and gardening for many years, his real interest in the field broadened when he began attending the York County Vo-tech school majoring in horticulture.

"I became very interested in pursuing my interest in horticulture and saved enough money to buy a green house; from then on my enjoyment of the work has increased," the youth explained.

Jeff recalled that buying his green house turned out to be a bargain.

"I attended the Philadelphia Flower Show and bought my green house at a low cost." "I guess the manager thought since I was in FFA I must be interested."

Jeff's brother helped him build a permanent foundation for his greenhouse and since then the building has been full of bedding plants, house plants and a collection of cacti.

Jeff's greenhouse has also housed a collection of some 45 African Violets which

were displayed at the York Fair.

While attending the York County Vo-tech school, Jeff was a member of the FFA and served as vice president and also the county treasurer. Two years ago, Jeff was the first place winner at FFA State days in the ornamental horticultural contest.

The youth was also awarded the first place

[Continued on Page 20]

In This Issue

FARM CALENDAR	10
Markets	2-6
Sale Register	84
Farmers Almanac	8
Classified Ads	32-33
Editorials	10
Homestead Notes	46
Home on the Range	50
Junior Cooking Edition	48
Country Corner	46
What's New	81
Women's Calendar	50
Sale Reports	91
Lebanon DHIA	62
Berks DHIA	58
Lancaster DHIA	56
Ephrata Preview	12
Lampeter Preview	54
Open House	22-23

The largest apple crop in more than 40 years is hanging on the nation's trees. Fairly representative of the expected 175 million bushel crop is this scene taken at the Groff Orchard, Kirkwood.