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Lancaster Farming

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In This Issue

FARM CALENDAR	10
Markets	2-6
Sales Register	84
Farmers Almanac	8
Classified Ads	37
Life on the Farm	10
Homestead Notes	46
Home on the Range	49
Junior Cooking Edition	50
Sale Reports	91
Country Corner	46
Farm Women Calendar	50
Neppco Convention	57
Crop Stats	62
Farm Progress Show	62
Manheim Fair	20

Barn fire trips zone alarm

By Dieter Krieg
PENRYN — Volunteers from six fire companies battled a barn fire near here, at the Joseph Boll farm, on Tuesday afternoon.

Believed to have been started by an electric heater, the blaze, which engulfed and destroyed the entire upper portions of the structure, was visible from as far as Lancaster — about ten miles south of here, a fire official said.

The fire started at about 12:15 p.m. with what was described as an explosion and it spread to the roof and hay mows within minutes. A spectacular column of black smoke rose straight into the air for several hundred feet before the fire alarms had even gone off. Fifteen minutes later most of the barn, located on Fairview Road, 3½ miles northwest of Lititz, had already been consumed by flames.

Lost in the blaze were 3,500 bales of hay, 500 bushel of shelled corn, three tons of soybean meal, a bin wagon, and a weed sprayer. There were no cattle in the barn at the time, and the livestock area itself was untouched by flames.

Boll's son, Richard, who operates the farm, told us he was just coming home for lunch from a neighbor's field, where he had been

cutting silage, when he discovered the tragedy. "The fire was in a bin wagon of shelled corn when we got home," he said.

The elder Boll was in his home about a half mile away. He said he heard what sounded like an explosion and immediately looked out the window. It was then that he noticed the fire at the barn.

[Continued on Page 21]

Bumper corn crop seen

By Dieter Krieg
LANCASTER - Reports from various sections of Lancaster County indicate that this year's corn crop is going to be a good one, possibly better than last year's.

Paul Howard of Red Rose Feeds, Quarryville, says his company has been receiving the new crop for about two weeks now and according to what he sees and what

farmers tell him, "we're going to have a really good yield down here." He described the crop as being of the "bumper" variety.

Not only are the yields per acre very good, farmers all across the county also planted more acreage - which has caused some of them to go around inquiring about the possibility of putting up more storage bins.

Moisture content is favorable in most areas too. Howard told us that it was "considerably lower" than anticipated, ranging from a low of 23 per cent to a high of 28. The full-season corn is also down in moisture, and if favorable weather is with us from here on in, it will mean that corn will be drying pretty well, and yields will continue to be good.

Pennfield Corporation's Al

Landis told us that his customers give him the impression the 1975 crop "will be as good as last year's or just about." Dave Heistand of Heistand Brothers, Elizabethtown, agreed word for word with the crop estimate made by Landis. The report from the New Holland area is that corn over in that section is

[Continued on Page 29]

Dairy market sets records

LANCASTER — "Last week was good news week for area dairymen," Dr. James E. Honan, general manager, of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative, told a group of officers and delegates for Inter-State's District 7, here Monday night.

Within one week, reported Honan, the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board

climaxed three years of hearings with a new order for the Philadelphia Milk Marketing Area; Secretary of Agriculture, Earl Butz, raised support levels back to 80 percent parity; and Order 4 milk prices hit their highest mark in history.

"It's certainly great to share with you some good news," Honan said. "Too long has the dairyman been

the victim of the cost-price squeeze."

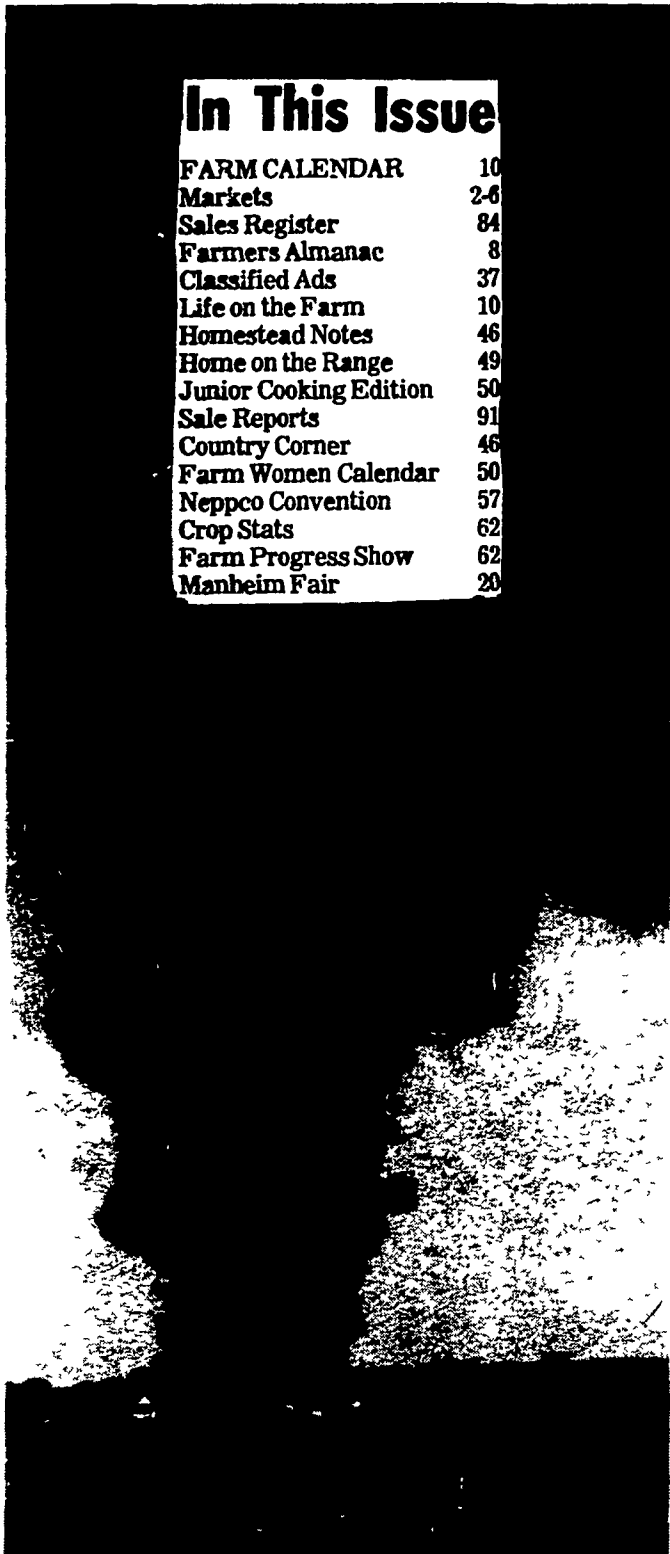
Honan credited those dairymen at the meeting for helping to bring about the good news. Those in attendance, he said, were instrumental in organizing the trip to Washington, D.C. last November, which brought national publicity for the first time to the dairyman's plight. About

1,400 Inter-State members, made the trip.

"That trip," he said, "soon resulted in (Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz) raising the support level to 80 percent parity and adjusting it again last week was no coincidence."

That first increase in dairy supports this year came in

[Continued on Page 19]



A cloud of black smoke rose several hundred feet into the air when disaster struck the Joseph Boll farm last Tuesday afternoon.

Cloister FFA Team

Wins contest in Ohio

By Melissa Piper

EPHRATA - Three Ephrata High School youths recently captured first place at the American FFA Dairy Cattle Judging Contest held in Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 4.

The youths, Kerry Boyd, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Boyd, Ephrata R1; Harry Leininger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Leininger, Ephrata R1, and David Haldeman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Christ Haldeman, Reinholds R1, comprised the team (Cloister FFA) which competed against a total of 113 other teams.

This year marked the second time that an Ephrata team had captured first place in the contest at Columbus. Members representing the school took first in 1971 also. Along with

receiving a trophy, the team was awarded a \$100 prize.

Solanco Youth Tops the Field

Joe Winters, Solanco High School, was the top individual judge at the event. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Winters, Kirkwood R1; the youth helped the Solanco team place 7th in the event.

Other members of the Solanco team included Bruce Kreider, Quarryville R1 and Marshall Trimble, Drumore R1. The team was coached by Dr. William Fredd.

Ephrata's win at Columbus was not the first for the youths this season. In April, the team placed first at the Penn State Dairy Club's invitational contest and placed third at the State FFA Judging contest. At the

Atlantic Rural Exposition, held in Richmond, the team placed second. Before their victory at Columbus, the youths captured first place in the FFA Dairy Judging Forum held in conjunction with the All American Dairy Show. Lewis Ayers, ag instructor at Ephrata High School, coached the team.

Ephrata Wins County Title

For the fourth consecutive year, the Cloister FFA (Ephrata) took first place honors in the County Judging Contest held earlier this fall at Solanco Fair. Over 400 FFA'ers from Lancaster County took part in the contest.

John Weiler, Ephrata FFA'er was also the top individual judge.



Members of the award winning dairy judging team from Ephrata High School look over some of the many trophies they captured this season. Participating on the team were (from

left) Harry Leininger, Dave Haldeman and Kerry Boyd. The team placed first in competition at the North American Dairy Show held recently in Columbus, Ohio.