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Photo by Dieter Krieg

The pasturing season has come to an end; hunting dogs now frequent the cow paths and distant corn fields as chilled air flows through the countryside.

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The Grange passes resolutions

Welfare reform called for

LANCASTER — The Pennsylvania State Grange has called for welfare reform legislation at both state and federal levels and for strict law enforcement as a means of eradicating the marijuana menace.

The action was taken in resolutions adopted at the closing session of the 103rd annual convention of the state Grange at the Fulton Opera House.

In its welfare reform resolution, the Grange pointed out that the original intent of the welfare program in the nation was to assist needy persons, but that the service has been broadened and expanded far beyond that purpose.

In citing the heavy cost to taxpayers and fraud and abuse in the program, the Grange urged that:

"The General Assembly of the Pennsylvania and the Congress of the United States take immediate steps to enact welfare reform legislation that would restore state and federal programs and services for

the benefit of those persons who are in need of assistance."

The Grange also urged that employable welfare recipients be required to accept gainful employment when it is available and

offered to them. It also recommended that "voluntary termination or interruption of employment shall not be acceptable grounds for welfare assistance."

In the resolution relating

to marijuana, the Grange opposed "any change in

existing Pennsylvania drug laws" and requested an "all out effort" to eradicate the use of marijuana by strict enforcement and existing

penalties for possession of the drug.

In another resolution adopted at the convention's closing session was one urging "all communities to comply with federal regulations for flood in-

surance." The resolution was critical of proposed state flood plain legislation that was drafted by a conference committee trying to iron out differences between Senate and House versions of Senate Bill 1.

The Grange resolution contended that the definition of watershed is too broad and could allow the Department of Environmental Resources to regulate all land in the Commonwealth. "Watershed," it was pointed out, is described in the conference report as "the entire region or area drained by a river or other body of water, whether natural or artificial."

Another portion of the conference committee report that was criticized involved an open end clause in the appointment of an area management advisory committee. It would allow for appointment of "such additional organizations or individuals as the secretary (of DER), in consultation with the committee, may find are necessary and

Swine producer wins award

By Melissa Piper

STEVENS - When Rick Pfautz brought home his first pig as an FFA project, he never dreamed that four years later he'd be receiving his American Farming Degree primarily for his work in hog production. But then neither did his parents.

Although the Pfautz's had been active in farming-raising crops and produce for their popular road-side market (along Rt. 222 near Stevens,) the thought of having pigs near the market did not settle well with Rick's father Elmer Pfautz.

"I saw that the other FFA members were getting money from their swine

projects," Rick explained, "and I wanted to get into some profit myself."

"My parents really didn't take to the idea because they thought the smell might bother the people who stopped at the market."

"But with a little per-

suasion they let me bring home a bred gilt, only under the condition that she would be sold after having a litter."

But as nature sometimes rules, Rick's sow didn't produce a good litter and a problem arose as to what to do with the animal.

Berks Co. writer hired

Miss Patrice Bradley, 1626 Garfield Ave., Wyomissing, has joined the staff of Lancaster Farming as the Berks-Lehigh Area news correspondent. Miss Bradley graduated from Penn State in June of 1975 with a B.A.

degree in Journalism from the College of Liberal Arts.

A Berks County native, Miss Bradley graduated from Wyomissing Area High School and also attended the Keystone Junior

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"I asked, if we could keep her for just one more litter and my parents gave in," the youth related. "Since that time I've had pigs and have realized the profit."

Following his freshman year at Ephrata High School, Rick took swine breeding and hog fattening as his project work, combining the enterprise with veal calves, field and sweet corn and sugar peas.

And while his projects required a great deal of time, the young man also served the Cloister Chapter as vice president in his junior year and as president in his senior year.

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