

# Lancaster Farming

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## Mushroom sales up for Christmas

By DIETER KRIEG  
**LANCASTER** — Prices of mushrooms have been comparatively poor for the last three years, but they're beginning to pick up again, according to Ralph Kirk, a Chester County mushroom grower who has been in the business for 14 years.

Christmas is one of the traditional times of year for sales of mushrooms like mushrooms. On the other hand, thought, that is not entirely true - because mushrooms don't grow like other crops used to. Sales and prices are up alright, but it's just due to the holidays, according to Kirk. The edible fungi are more susceptible to frost than they were in previous years gone by and mushroom farming has therefore become more discouraging than it used to be. Most growers have come back with smaller crops, and a tight supply generally means higher prices if demand stays steady or increases. Prices are "a little bit higher, compared to last year," Kirk affirmed. The higher prices are only temporary. Once the holidays are over, mushroom sales drop, and along with it the prices. "I'd never see good sales all through the year," Kirk said, "but sales on just a few days during the year don't mean much." If past trends are any indication of what will happen this year, mushroom sales will be at their peak between now and today.

The increased activity at markets is reflected in not only higher prices, but also more work. Kirk has been working with his mushrooms for more than 12 hours per day - beginning at dawn and continuing until midnight. "This time of year there is no such thing as a free time," he quipped.

After former construction worker, Kirk went into the

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Coleman Memorial Chapel, north of Brickerville.

And the Word came and dwelled among us full of Grace and Truth.

John 1:14

*Merry Christmas*

## F & H Center thanks its many donors

By DIETER KRIEG  
**LANCASTER** — Foresight, a strong community spirit, and generosity built Lancaster County's Farm and Home Center, which was dedicated for use seven and a half years ago and since that time has been host to no less than 6,900 meetings with a total attendance of approximately 440,000 people.

Lancaster County's Agricultural Extension Director, Max Smith, describes the Center as a "living monument to the late Messrs. Elmer L. Esben-shade and Lehi H. Brubaker and Lancaster County agriculture as a whole. It was largely through the generosity and dedication of these two men that the Center became reality.

But it doesn't stop there. The Farm and Home Center quickly became a community project once the idea was publicized and red tape was cleared away. Depending entirely on the community for financial and moral support, the first two fund drives raised over \$260,000. Those involved with the project prided themselves on the fact that state and federal funds were not used to make their dream come true.

The Farm and Home Foundation now wants to say "Thank You" to all those in Lancaster County agriculture and related businesses who have contributed time and money for the construction of the Center. Furthermore, it wants to acknowledge their support on a large walnut plaque which is to be permanently installed in the lobby. All those individuals and businesses which have donated at least \$100 to the Farm and Home Foundation in the past ten years will have their name permanently inscribed on the plaque. The prestigious list will rank donors alphabetically and according to amounts of money given.

"Leadership Gifts" are all those exceeding \$5,000. The next category, "Sponsorship Gifts," includes all donors who gave between \$3,000 and \$4,999. "Citizenship Gifts" are from persons or companies who gave \$1,000 but less than \$3,000. Anyone who has contributed at least \$500 (but less than \$1,000) will be in the "Key Share" group. The "Fair Share" category includes donors who gave between \$100 and \$499.

Directors at the Center

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## NCEN 'fries' . . .

# Egg ads lose first battle

By MELISSA PIPER  
**LANCASTER** — In a decision made public late last week, the Federal Trade Commission's administrative law judge ruled against the National Commission on Egg Nutrition for its advertisements concerning eggs and their relation to heart disease.

Judge Ernest G. Barnes, the FTC's judge, stated in a 101-page document that NCEN's advertisements were false, misleading and deceptive and that the ads were not protected by the first amendment.

In a final decision, Barnes issued an order which severely restricted NCEN

and its dissemination of information about eggs.

The controversy leading to the FTC's ruling began when the American Heart Association and several consumer groups took offense to "public service announcements" prepared by the NCEN which appeared in the New York

Times and the Wall Street Journal in December of 1973.

The ads stated that "there is absolutely no proof that eating eggs, in any way increases the risk of heart disease."

This key sentence prompted the American

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