

Lancaster Farming

Vol. 21 No. 14

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, Feb. 21, 1976

\$3.00 Per Year



Man's best friend led the way while four harder working friends pulled a plow near Ronks on Thursday. 'Plowing fever' got the best of this Amishman and a number of other farmers this week as unusually warm and sunny weather moved into the area.

New beef grades upset cattlemen

By DIETER KRIEG

LANCASTER — The new federal meat grading regulations which are to go into effect Monday aren't likely to benefit anyone, according to opinions expressed Wednesday night at the Lancaster Stock Yards when the new standards were explained by USDA representatives. Most of the approximately 150 farmers and packers present didn't know for sure what the proposed revisions mean, but by the time the

situation was explained, they had made up their minds where they stood: opposite from USDA.

Bill McCoy, president of the Lancaster Stock Yards, Inc., had this to say: "We can ill afford to change standards which for the past 30 or 40 years have enabled cattlemen to come up with a product which consumers want — these new regulations could, in my opinion, drive consumers from the

meat counter — and even if we lose just one customer, we took a step in the wrong direction."

It was a point which a number of people in the auction room agreed with. Milt Marshall, representative of Cross Brothers, a Philadelphia meat packing firm, rose from his seat on numerous occasions to contest the USDA position. "We pay for our own mistakes, and I'll be darned if I want to

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Chester Co. Dairy Day featured calf care

By DIETER KRIEG

UNIONVILLE — Cleanliness, the elimination of stress, proper temperature and humidity levels, draft-free and dry housing, and good management are the most essential points to remember in a good calf-raising program, according to Don Ace, Penn State dairy specialist.

Ace was here at the Stone Barn Inn on Thursday to take part in Chester County Dairy Day activities which drew more

than 200 dairymen on a day which was marked by unseasonably warm and sunny weather.

"I am well convinced that management is the key to controlling calf losses," the renowned dairy specialist said at one point. "How badly do you want to keep the calves alive?" he asked. Ace noted that in one study within the state, 545 dairymen were surveyed and out of these, three had lost all of their calves during an entire year. "Calf losses are pretty

darn serious in this state on the average," he exclaimed. "You can probably live with a calf loss of five to ten per cent, but I'd advise you to stay below the five per cent mortality level."

Speaking of baby calves as frail individuals which are as helpless as human babies, Ace made it clear that he is in

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Solanco youth is Pa. Corn Contest winner

By MELISSA PIPER

QUARRYVILLE — One of the first farming techniques that almost every young person learns is the fine art of growing corn. And while the whole operation from

plowing to harvesting can be accomplished with great numbers of acreage, perfecting one single acre can be quite complicated.

For one Solanco area youth however, his one acre

corn crop turned out to be a prize winning effort.

Dan Hershberger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hershberger, Quarryville RI, was recently named as the

Gold Medal Winner in a one acre corn contest sponsored by the Pennsylvania Crop Improvement Association. Dan's honor was singular in the state as the youth was the only producer to have 201

bushels of corn in his acre plot.

The contest is sponsored annual by the crop association and is open to farming youth under 21 years of age. Judging is

based on yield per acre along with net profits gained from the venture. Dan's net profit was calculated at \$381, which the youth has put into buying new stock for his dairy herd.

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Last of the tobacco crop moves to market

RONKS — Lancaster County's tobacco crop is sold, and as has been reported here and elsewhere for the last several weeks, the going price was 58 cents per pound.

Trucks and wagons were lining the main street here on Thursday, waiting to unload their crop at an old warehouse. A Denver area farmer said he had been there since 8 a.m. and didn't expect to reach the unloading dock until mid-afternoon. More loads were still coming in at 2 p.m. Asked if he was satisfied with his price, he responded with a quick "yes," explaining that it's very fair considering the quality of

his tobacco this year. On the other hand, it did not cover his expenses.

Two Amishmen from Bird-in-Hand were delivering the last of their crop Thursday afternoon. They had sold all of it for 58 cents and commented that "we could use 60 cents, and we'd be better pleased, but we don't want to complain."

A tobacco grower from the Kinzer area said he wasn't satisfied with his price — which, like all the rest, was 58 cents per pound. He flatly stated that the costs of production and everything else have gone up but the price of tobacco stayed

the same as last year. "It don't make sense," he exclaimed.

Most farmers were, however, satisfied with the deal they had made. Their costs of production weren't always met, but then on the other hand, they admitted they didn't have quite the quality or quantity either.

One Amishman, puffing on his cigar, summed up the attitude of most tobacco growers: "I guess we'll have to be pleased with it."



Wagons and trucks lined the streets of Ronks on Thursday to deliver the last of this year's 58-cent tobacco crop to the warehouse.

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