

## Exclusive weather

[Continued from Page 1] are not irrigated. In 1975, for example, Lancaster County farmers produced a record \$335 million worth of farm products. Lancaster County ranks third in the country in the number of farms and is in the top 10 producers for a number of farm products, including, milk eggs, poultry and tobacco.

The pilot program, which is eventually expected to be available in other areas as well, is designed especially for farmers, Walker told the gathering of more than 400 Lancaster County farmers. It will be available by telephone and will include local weather forecasts, information on soil and spraying conditions and other information that might be useful. Walker told the group: "Having this type of localized weather forecasts for farmers will be the first in the nation. This is a pilot project and Lancaster County is an excellent place to start."

The congressional candidate further revealed that he has met with representatives of the National Weather Service and the

telephone industry in Washington to get action on the program started. Wenger added that he was encouraged by the cooperation between the government and private industry in this effort to help farmers. He said: "We Lancaster County farmers should find this weather information very useful in our work and at the same time we will be helping test a service that could eventually be provided to farmers in agriculture areas all over the country."

When the service begins to operate, farmers will be able to call a local telephone number and hear a recorded message detailing the weather forecast and giving such information as the amount of moisture in the soil and recommendations on spraying and planting for that particular day. Severe weather warnings and updated information will be placed on the recording immediately.

Special equipment made available by the telephone company will ensure that callers get through to the recording without delay. A



The weather was great for the Lancaster County Farmers Association picnic, held recently at the Solanco Fairgrounds. The word from Washington D.C. is that very specific weather reports for agriculture are likely to be put into service early next year. With that Lancaster County will become the first county in the nation to have such a farm weather forecast.

local sponsor will be found to help defray costs.

Walker said the negotiations to get this service for Lancaster County are in the very early stages but all signs are positive. Walker told the gathering at Quarryville, "you can be sure that Noah and I will keep working on this project to make sure Lancaster farmers get this service."

## Fair season

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erected. Improvement projects are reportedly underway at West Lampeter as well.

Following is the schedule for the 1976 fairs within Lancaster County:

Following the Solanco Fair, in chronological order, are fairs at Elizabethtown, Ephrata, West Lampeter, New Holland and Manheim. The Manheim Fair, which ends the Lancaster County fair season in early October, undertook a building project of its own recently and is moving to a new site where new facilities have been

Southern Lancaster County Community Fair, Sept. 14-18.

Elizabethtown Marketplace Fair, Sept. 20-25.

Ephrata Fair, Sept. 21-25.

West Lampeter Community Fair, Sept. 22-24.

New Holland Farmers Fair, Sept. 29 - Oct. 2.

Manheim Community Fair, Oct. 6-8.

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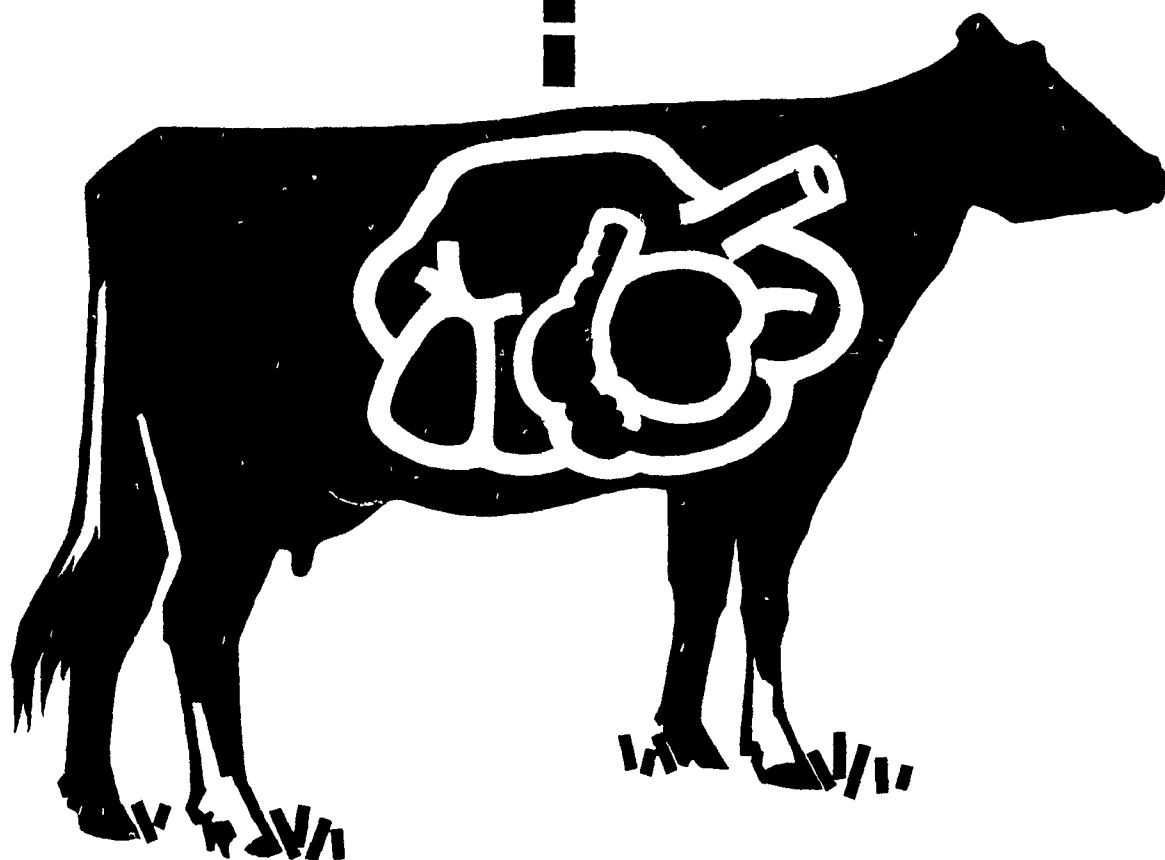
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