

# Lancaster Farming

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## Four schools dominate FFA Week contests

By DIETER KRIEG  
UNIVERSITY PARK - In what might be called the Olympics of the Pennsylvania FFA, the best vocational students from all across the state gathered here this week to compete for "gold," "silver," and "bronze" medals. As is true with the sports event, a few perennial powerhouses ran away with more than an average share of medals. Three Lancaster County schools and one from York County split 33 "gold" medals between them. Brata and Solanco each earned nine gold medals, New Holland had eight, and Red Bank came home with seven. Brata earned its "gold" medals in dairy foods, land judging, meat judging and

dairy cattle judging. Solanco excelled in ag sales, dairy foods, farm management, interviewing, land judging and dairy cattle judging. For New Holland, the top events were agronomy, dairy foods, land judging, poultry judging and public speaking. A list of all winners from southeastern-southcentral Pennsylvania is included in this report.

The annual competition is held here each Summer on the Penn State campus and is sponsored jointly by the Department of Agricultural Education in the College of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Harrisburg. In all 22 FFA contests were

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## First combined barley exceeds expectations

By JOYCE BUPP  
York County Reporter  
YORK, Pa. - In spite of a later, cold winter and drier than normal spring growing conditions, the early barley crop has the earmarks of an above average crop. "It's some of the nicest I've ever seen," said William Sprenkle, of Sprenkle and Sprenkle, Inc., "Only a few loads had arrived at the mill by midweek, but indications pointed to early high yields on most of the county's acreage. Overall, grain price look just isn't good," Sprenkle admitted. "Barley would be a bright spot if it's a high yield." According to the mill operator, the wheat harvest already begun in Texas,

but prices are well under the two dollar per bushel mark. And while the York market for corn was at \$2.40 this past Tuesday, pessimistic predictions are that it, too, could drop to under two dollars by fall harvest.

Tuesday's barley price at Sprenkle's West York mill was \$1.90 per bushel, a dime higher than outlying mills in the county were paying.

The first grain coming off is of the bearded, Barsoy variety. Moisture readings were in the twelve to thirteen per cent range, with bushel weights running at about 47 pounds. Cloudy weather with scattered showers was slowing the cutting efforts

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## Ag graduates speak on problems, future

LAUREL SCHAEFFER  
Berks County Reporter  
READING SPRING - The general consensus of various speakers graduating from schools within Berks County this year, seems to be something has to be done with land use management. Art Noss of Conrad Weiser stated, "farmers compete with developers for land at the present rate." Noss, who is to work on his father's farm after graduation, hopes something will develop to serve farm land, even though he doesn't know what solution to the problem will be. The way farmers can fully fight the land pinch

is through plant breeding, he suggested. Yields per acre will have to continue to rise, and better disease resistance may be part of that answer, Noss explained.

Norman Manbeck, also graduating from Conrad Weiser, feels little farms won't be able to survive in the future. "They just won't be able to compete," he said. The trend will be towards corporations and larger family farms involving more partnerships. "Also, farmers have to continually increase their yields per acre as the population continues to rise and more and more land is consumed for non-agricultural

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Lancaster Farming photo by Dieter Krieg  
Candy Barker, Pennsylvania FFA Princess for 1977-78, wishes all fathers a happy Father's Day.

## Candy Barker is new FFA Princess

By DIETER KRIEG  
UNIVERSITY PARK - The Pennsylvania FFA has a real farm girl representing it as Princess for 1977-78. She is 16-year old Candy Barker from Northern Potter High School. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Barker, Ulysses, she makes her home on her parents' 250 acre farm. "I love dairy farming - that's where my heart and soul belong," she said in a convincing interview with Lancaster Farming at the Penn State campus. She is "herdsgirl" at home and milks 48 registered Holsteins morning and evening. Eighteen of the black-and-whites are owned by her. After graduation next Spring, she wants to go into partnership with her father

and continue in the profession she has loved ever since she was old enough to walk.

The blue-eyed and blonde-haired princess begins her days at 5:30 a.m., does the milking, prepares for school, and then returns to work at the farm. Her mother, Bonnie Jean, and three younger sisters - Carmie, Cookie, and Georgie - help with the barn work, while Mr. Barker is occupied with his 175 tillable acres. Her responsibilities other than milking include keeping the breeding and registry records up to date and artificial insemination. She learned the latter technique a year and half ago and has been providing that service

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## Unanimous vote passes farm protection bill

HARRISBURG - The Pennsylvania House passed HB 111 on Monday and according to Rep. Noah Wenger of Lancaster County, "the future of farmland in Pennsylvania will be more secure because of it." The bill was unanimously approved 192 to 0. That should give the bill a real good chance of gaining quick passage in the Senate, Wenger told Lancaster Farming earlier this week. Wenger, a sponsor of the legislation and a member of the House Agriculture Committee, said the measure would restrict the right of government agencies to condemn prime agricultural lands for uses other than farming.

He said the bill also would establish a committee to make determinations and recommendations on such proposed condemnations. "With farmland diminishing at an alarming rate in the Commonwealth, the need for this legislation is clear," Wenger said.

"Indeed, in Lancaster County recently we had a case in which a township authority wanted to condemn a productive farm in order to expand a sanitary landfill. That farm was saved from acquisition through the personal intervention of myself, other members of the House Agriculture Committee and

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## Poultry conference set for this coming week

LANCASTER - The Pennsylvania Poultry Federation reports that advance registrations for the 1977 Pennsylvania Poultry Conference and annual banquet on June 23, 1977, at the Host farm here, are far exceeding last year's count. The Federation attributes this to its new format - three separate conferences (broiler, egg, turkey) as well as a hatchery seminar in the morning and the engagement of speakers on controversial subjects.

The egg industry will be provided with an opportunity to hear about a new approach in forced molting which includes some data not yet released for publication and a hard look at what the current

expansion in the industry will bring in the future. Other topics include a look at some new ideas in egg marketing and a new update on nutrition.

The broiler industry will be provided with some new information on processing and proper environment and ventilation with housing. The turkey industry will learn how a local retail market is built and the cost-benefit ratio of controlled environment in housing. Both the broiler and turkey groups will hear a discussion about their future, the water quality effect on growth and what the future availability of propane will be.

In addition to the three

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