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The first of its kind in the East, this farrow-to-finish hog operation owned by Joel Habegger, is now being completed. When in full production, the facility will house 480 sows, their litters, 24 boars, and 2400 feeder pigs. The entire operation is closed and environmentally controlled. A strain of hogs, rather than a breed, will be used to produce pork, with replacement animals coming from within the complex as well.

Hog factory to market 200 weekly

By DIETER KRIEG

FRYSTOWN, Pa. - A hog raising system which is the first of its kind in the East goes into production later this month near this western Berks County community. Owned by Joel C. Habegger, the unique facility features total confinement from farrowing to finishing, and

demands a hospital-like attitude on cleanliness. Built at a reported cost of over \$600,000, the 32,790 square foot barns are now being completed and will eventually raise 8400 market hogs per year.

Habegger, in conjunction with Pennfield Corporation, sponsored Open House activities yesterday to introduce

the new system to other interested farmers in the area. Pennfield will use a portion of the facilities for research. Other companies took part in the Open House as well.

Totally environmentally controlled, the system was built by Swine Service Specialists, Inc. of Lyons, Neb.

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Orchardists look to good harvest

By KENDACE BORRY

LANCASTER, Pa. - The apple, peach, pear, and plum harvest should be better than average this year, according to Lancaster County orchard farmers. Estimates ranging

from slightly above average to very good were given out this week as the harvest forecast of the orchard crops.

Earlier this summer, the cherry crop in Lancaster

County was only about 50 per cent of its potential. The main reason for this was due to a sudden cold snap in the weather after an early blossoming of the cherry trees in April. The freezing

cold greatly affected the cherry season and harvest.

However, that cold weather seems to have had little effect on the later fruit harvests. Apples, peaches,

pears, and plums all look to have good crops.

According to Richard Haas, New Danville, who farms 175 acres, a full crop will be expected from his apples and other fruit. "The

only problem with the weather now is that it's a little dry and even that seems to have eased in the last week or so," he stated.

The dryness seemed to be

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Organic farming is a way of life

By DIETER KRIEG

EDITOR'S NOTE: This begins a series of stories on the organic farming concept.

PENNS CREEK, Pa. - The organic farmer looks at the soil and his livelihood in a different way from the more conventional tiller of the soil.

In short, he believes that productivity is optimized if all of the complex concepts of Nature are kept in balance. A

most exemplary illustration of this is the organic farmer's attitude towards insects, or pests. Most farmers haven't an ounce of sympathy towards the little critters which chew up their crops and profits. But organic farmers don't believe in declaring war against the insect world. To them, the insect has a place in Nature's scheme, and they're willing to accept that as is.

Paul Keene, one of the country's larger organic farmers

who operates 500 acres near this northern Snyder County community and markets his produce all over the world, explains the theory. He first came across it in India, where Sir Albert Howard, a British agriculturalist, was working at the time to improve farm productivity.

"If you have a plant which is infested with bugs, you have two ways of looking at it," Keene explained,

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Pasture-stretching grasses assessed

By JOYCE BUPP

York Co. Reporter
WELLSVILLE, Pa. - "The cows seem to eat the Big Blue Grass like it's candy," assesses Penn State Livestock Specialist Dr.

with agronomists in finding pasture-stretching grasses for beef cattle.

While in York County on a livestock judging-teaching visit, Burdette checked a research plot of midwest

Warrington Green livestock farm.

Included in the blend of warm-season grasses is the Big Blue species and a variety of Switchgrass.

The University specialist

test plots of the grasses have been established since 1973.

"It's as tall as the cows," noted Burdette. "But they'll graze it down pretty well."

Tests have shown a yield from the midwest varieties

to production of local cool weather grasses. Nutritive value is equal to that of cool weather types during the same Summer period.

Coarser in stem and leaf than traditional pasture blue

the East, help fill the Summer grazing void left when hot weather slows the growth of established varieties.

Burdette emphasizes that the warm-season perennials