

# Lancaster Farming

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## Soybeans still waiting on weather

By KENDACE BORRY

LITITZ - The weather continues to be a headache for soybean farmers as they try to harvest their crop between the rain, cold, and muddy conditions that plague their fields. And while yesterday's dry snowfall did little to damage the crop itself, it did have the effect of again slowing down some harvesting operations. In Northampton County, soybean farmer David Paul, R2, has about 15 to 20 acres of soybeans harvested of his 38 planted. Of the crop that is still in the field, he stated that the crop is frozen, with a quarter inch of ice covering his plants, the result of an ice storm. And he isn't too hopeful about the outlook.

"Some people up here haven't harvested a bean yet," Paul stated. "I've heard of some who have 300 acres yet to harvest, but it just can't be done right now. If the weather would warm up and the fields dry out, then maybe but if we have a load snow and it stays cold, (Continued on Page 39)

## Wentink calls for unity in farm rebuttal

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The chairman of the National Commission on Egg Nutrition (NCEN) has called for the producers of eggs, meat, poultry and dairy products to respond in a united effort to increasing attacks on the nutritional value of their products. Hendrik Wentink, speaking to Missouri agricultural leaders at that state's annual Governor's Conference on Agriculture, November 21, drew heavily upon the experience of egg producers attempting to "cope with the terrific amount of misinformation which was being circulated by both medical and commercial interests about the supposed dangers of egg consumption."

He went on to say that "these unproven, unsubstantiated promises of cures and prevention have unfairly persuaded our fellow Americans to avoid or eliminate foods considered to be high in cholesterol and saturated fat, and are also the cause of a proliferation of fad diets."

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## 450 acres of tobacco sold in Lanc. Co.

By JOANNE SPAHR

LITITZ - Four hundred and 50 acres of prime tobacco was purchased in Lancaster County this week at a price of 60 cents for pull off and 70 cents for unsized wrappers tied in hands.

The companies who bought the tobacco were John Berger & Son, Co., Landisville, and House of Windsor, Yoe. Doing the buying for them was Don Lefever, Manheim R1. Lefever is known for picking out top quality tobacco early in the season and finishing before other companies are completed.

This year Lefever bought his whole crop in one week, writing up contracts for as much as 300 acres on Wednesday, alone.

"I'm finished," he told Lancaster Farming in a telephone interview, on Thursday evening. "And, as far as I know, no other major companies are out in the field, yet."

At his 60/70 cent level, Lefever's price was higher than that which the other companies wanted to pay.

When asked to quote the (Continued on Page 32)

## Assessment has farmers appalled

By DIETER KRIEG

HUNTINGDON -- A reassessment of real estate in Huntingdon County for tax purposes has many of that area's farmers upset enough to want to go to court with a class action suit, and they'll be doing just that in the near future. In fact, they'll be going to court several times. The issue at stake, according to some observers, may have repercussions in every Pennsylvania county when reassessments are considered.

The heart of the dispute is that farmers feel they'll be paying more than their fair share of taxes, while non-farmers have their tax burdens eased. According to the county commissioners, the feeling is unfounded, but days in court are forthcoming nonetheless.

Similar court actions are proceeding in Dauphin and Potter Counties.

The controversy has become bitter with tones of anger being evident on both sides. The county commissioners charge that they've been bodily threatened on numerous occasions. One of (Continued on Page 38)

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The sky over an eastern Lancaster County farm gives warning that Winter is coming

## 121 Lancaster herds top 600 pounds

By DIETER KRIEG

SMOKETOWN - Leola dairyman Jonas Z. Nolt milked his way to the top of the Lancaster County DHIA list for the second time in three years, it was announced Tuesday afternoon at a recognition banquet for the association's 438 member dairy farmers.

Nolt's herd of 33 Holsteins averaged 19,349 pounds of milk and 724 pounds of butterfat, well ahead of runner-up R. Edwin Harnish of Christiana, whose 40 Holsteins pumped out an average of 17,250 pounds of milk and 716 of butterfat.

A third herd to break the prestigious 700 pounds of butterfat mark was that of Rufus G. Martin, last year's champion in the Red Rose DHIA. His herd of 26 Holsteins came out with 18,410 pounds of milk and 708 of butterfat. A year ago the Ephrata area dairyman topped the list with 19,248 pounds of milk and 713 pounds of butterfat. This

year's winner, Nolt, bested his 1975 win by 133 pounds of milk and 16 of fat.

The above mentioned dairymen, while representing the cream of the crop among Lancaster County's dairymen, were only a few of the several dozen to be recognized before the luncheon crowd of an estimated 600 people. The program, which lasted nearly four hours, was held at the Good 'N Plenty Restaurant, here.

Others to win top recognition were owners of high herds for individual breeds. Nolt took the crown for the Holstein division. For Guernseys, K.D. and Else Linde of Union topped the list for the second year in a row. His herd of 48 produced 14,204 pounds of milk and 663 of butterfat. That average also stands as the highest in the state, according to unofficial previews, and honor which the "Lindenhof" herd had last year.

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