

# Lancaster Farming

Serving The Central and Southeastern Pennsylvania Areas - Also Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware

VOL. 23 No. 7

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, December 17, 1977

\$6.00 Per Year



Winter is traditionally the time when farmers repair equipment--and that's exactly what farmers' strike supporters intend to do: fix up instead of buying any new machinery. Fred Sprenkle, York dairyman, takes the tools to a forage paper header.

Bernard Gardner reads a sign telling caravan watchers why farmers in York County and across the nation are demanding attention to their economic plight.

## Economic squeeze sends York Farmers striking

By JOYCE BUYP  
Staff Correspondent

YORK — "We've stood all we can take. This is a bad situation when we must do something this drastic to get attention."

Bernard Gardner is a frustrated farmer. He's tired of paying rising costs for his farm inputs and having the market price for his grain sink as he helplessly watches, unable to do a thing to change the situation.

Monday morning, Gardner decided that someone in York County should do his part in cooperating with the nationwide farmers' strike scheduled for Wednesday. Taking the matter in his own hands, he began a telephone contact with neighboring farm people.

"There just weren't as many people as we would have liked," admitted Gardner. Seven farmers and six trucks made a caravan through the city of York, past the County Courthouse and then continued out Route 30

to Hanover. Backdrop for the drama was a day of pouring rain and ominous clouds, a factor that was blamed for holding down the participation in the demonstration.

One truck bore a large sign reading: "Wanted: 100% parity."

Gardner, along with his brother Anthony, farms 500 acres of barley, corn and milo at their Spring Grove R3

(Continued on Page 19)

## Straw, hay prices soar, alternatives sought

### Rocketing straw prices affect farmers most

By JOANNE SPAHR

LITITZ — Hay and straw prices have hit an unprecedented high this season with alfalfa selling for \$145 to \$146 per ton this week and straw going for \$127.50 last week.

For farmers in Lancaster Farming's coverage area, this means dual hardship — not only is it expensive to feed the livestock, but it is

also expensive to bed the animals.

According to dealers, the figures on the straw are probably the most shocking.

"Straw has never brought more than \$100 per ton, and

now it's up to over \$125," stated William Rohrbach, manager of Green Dragon Market and Auction, Ephrata.

Confirming Rohrbach's (Continued on Page 32)

### Dairymen plan to hold out, use other roughage

By JOANNE SPAHR

LITITZ — With mulch hay setting a high floor for the hay market at \$92 per ton, and alfalfa going for as much as \$145 to \$146 per ton, this week's hay prices are

some of the highest ever recorded.

A poor crop due to bad growing conditions is to blame with drought creating a high demand in Virginia and Maryland this year and

extremely wet weather hampering harvesting upstate.

Tacked onto this low supply is a high demand for mulch hay from expanding mushroom businesses and for fancy hay from horsemen. Combining the low supply and high demand, the price is soaring.

"There's more hay than ever going to Virginia," (Continued on Page 25)

## New grains and soybeans discussed

By LAUREL SCHAEFFER  
Staff Correspondent

LEESPORT, PA. - Berks County farmers had the opportunity to learn new developments and get pointers on small grains and

soybeans December 12 at the Berks County Agricultural Center.

Speaking to a group of 70 or more farmers, Elwood Hatley, Extension Agronomist for Penn State,

briefly discussed the present and new varieties of small grains and soybeans which are best suited for this Southeastern Pennsylvania area.

While discussing several

of the more commonly known oat varieties the agronomist noted the higher protein content of Dal and Otee oats but also pointed out their lower yields. (Continued on Page 31)

### In this issue

Farm Calendar	10
Editorials	10
Letters	18
European agriculture	20
Life on the farm	28
Tax planning	30
Homestead Notes	42
Home on the Range	43
Jr. Cooking Edition	46
Kendy's Kolumn	47
Joyce Bupp	48
Farm Women Calendar	49
Craft feature	52
My Thoughts	53
Dauphin DHIA Classifieds	56
York DHIA	82
Dairy feature	86
Ida's Notebook	92
4-H features	96, 103
Adams DHIA	97

### Deadline nears for special issue

LANCASTER FARMING'S annual Farm Show Issue will be distributed on January 7, two days before the Pennsylvania Farm Show gets underway in Harrisburg. We're getting ready to prepare material for that issue and are printing this reminder to readers and advertisers alike to send in material of interest.

Please contact us if you have something to contribute.

## Corn management, marketing stressed

By KENDACE BORRY

NEW HOLLAND — Corn production and marketing were the subjects covered at the Garden Spot Young Farmers Corn Management Clinic held December 13 at

the Garden Spot High School, New Holland. A panel of five representatives from seed companies answered questions and gave their impressions on the corn production methods, while a

grain dealer handled the corn marketing topic.

Representing the corn production panel were: Ken Miller, Dekalb, John Weidman, Pioneer, George Steele, Hoffman (Funks).

Don Dodson, Cargill Seeds; and Homer Martin, Standford (Northrup King).

When asked to name the problem that they believed was the most prevalent in (Continued on Page 38)

## Gubernatorial candidates measured

By DIETER KRIEG

HERSHEY — In an effort to determine which of Pennsylvania's gubernatorial candidates might best represent the state's farmers, the Pennsylvania Farmers Association hosted

a dinner on Wednesday evening during which politicians had a chance to expose their views and answer several questions.

The program was part of the farm organization's Political Education Con-

ference, held Wednesday and Thursday at the Hershey Motor Lodge, here. Close to 200 PFA members were in attendance for the conference, which came at the advent of the organization's membership drive. Farmer-

members in most Pennsylvania counties are actively soliciting memberships at this time.

Reactions to comments made by the politicians were (Continued on Page 26)