

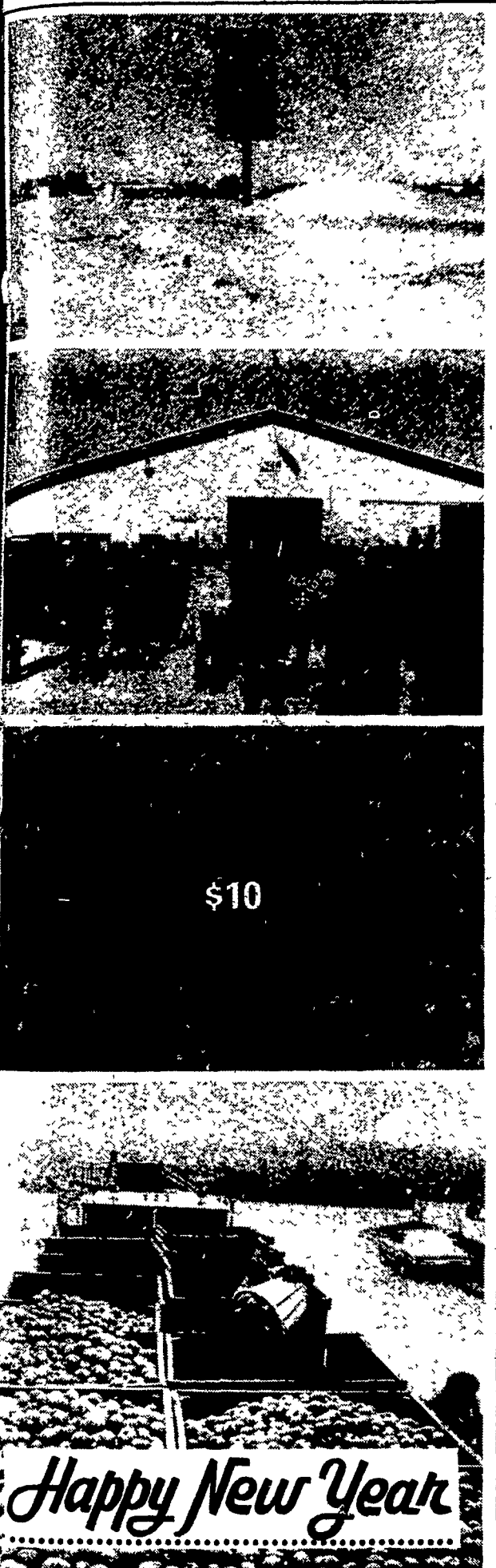
Lancaster Farming

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USDA is reorganizing

By DIETER KRIEG
WASHINGTON, D.C. - The United States Department of Agriculture has been going through a reconstruction period for the past two months, and the results are drawing both fire and praise from onlookers. In at least one case, USDA is being challenged by outside

agencies and Secretary Bergland is preparing to fight. (See story on page 13). A number of agencies will be merged, including the Extension Service, the Agricultural Research Service, the Cooperative State Research Service and the National Agricultural Library. Details on that

particular move can be found elsewhere in this issue, under the headline: "New USDA science agency is taking shape." Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland expects the various reorganizational moves to be complete and in effect by Jan. 3. A spokesman at USDA ex-

plains that the reorganization is primarily being undertaken for efficiency's sake. The actual workings of various programs will most likely not be directly affected. One proposed move which has come under considerable fire is the plan (Turn to Page 12)

Poultry disease still a threat

By KENDACE BORRY
HARRISBURG - Outbreaks of Laryngotracheitis (LT) have been increasingly detected, with approximately 20 infected chicken flocks reported, according to Dr. E.T. Mallinson, V.M.D., Chief, Avian Health Division, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Most of the

cases have been in southeastern Pennsylvania, with a concentration of the disease found in East Earl and Caenarvon Townships, Lancaster County, and the adjacent areas. Scattered cases have also been reported in the western and northeastern parts of the state. The disease has been

found in all types of chicken flocks, with both large and small, meat and egg types affected. According to Dr. Mallinson, backyard flocks pose a real threat to the situation because in many of these farms, sanitation procedures are not as good as they should be. Birds of these flocks could be in-

fectured and the infection carried to other birds in an endless cycle. People entering the area of the infected flock and then travelling to other flocks may carry the infection with them and spread the disease. To protect flocks, both large and small chicken (Turn to Page 16)

Agricultural zones considered

By BONNIE SZYMANSKI
LITITZ -- Warwick Township farmers are being given the opportunity to take part in local governmental action which could mean the beginning, or the end, of area farming as they now know it. On Wednesday evening, Dec. 28, about 30 residents of

Warwick Township -- most of them concerned in one way or another with agriculture -- gathered in the township municipal building on Clay Road to take part in an informal meeting of the Warwick Township Planning Commission. Discussion centered on whether or not the concept of an agricultural district would

be desirable or workable in the township. Zoning Officer Marvin Feller told those in attendance that he had mailed out approximately 30 letters to township residents living on class I and II soils (prime farm lands). He noted that he was pleased at the response, as almost

everyone contacted was at the meeting. In inviting them, planners had hoped that the farmers would use the meeting as a platform for discussion on their opinions and attitudes about establishing an agricultural district in the township. Questions from the (Turn to Page 21)

Wet soybeans finally harvested

By DIETER KRIEG
LITITZ -- Thanks to temperatures which haven't climbed above freezing -- or even the twenties -- for nearly a week, the soybean harvest got a boost after having been at a standstill for close to six weeks. Reports now are that combining has been completed nearly everywhere, and yields are holding up

fairly well considering the beating the crop took earlier in the season. But the beans are wet, which comes as no surprise to area residents who have been plagued with rain, ice, and snow ever since the beans were ripe enough to combine. Some growers are reporting moisture readings of upwards of 30 per cent. Mark Hershey, a Lebanon

County soybean handler, says he's getting beans containing anywhere from 15 to 25 per cent moisture. The high water content is one of the costly consequences of the late harvest. Although farmers aren't complaining too much about their yields -- realizing that they could have been much worse, -- they're having to sacrifice con-

siderable income if beans need to be dried down to 13 or 14 per cent moisture. One farmer reports being charged three cents per moisture point per bushel. Another method employed by dryer operators amounts to deducting two per cent of the weight of the beans for each point of moisture removed. (Turn to Page 22)

Tobacco buying activity quiet

By JOANNE SPAHR
LANCASTER -- Three weeks after the first major buy of Type 41 tobacco in Lancaster County, buying and selling activity is still relatively quiet. Up to this point, both United States Tobacco and John Berger & Son, Co.,

Landisville, have completed their purchases with only A.K. Mann, Lancaster, out in the field. Although the company temporarily suspended buying for the week, A. Kenneth Mann, executive of the company, stated he intends to begin again shortly. Mann is offering 60 cents for good, clean pull off, and had been paying 70 cents for 24 inch and above binder leaf, sorted and tied in hands. He stated on Friday, however, that he has nearly finished all his purchases of this particular type leaf. Eighty-five cents is the top

price the company is offering for high quality Maryland type tobacco with number two Maryland going for 75 cents. Although by last year's standards, the buying and selling activity is slow, on the average with other years it is normal.

Reviewing 1977, some of the major agricultural news stories would have to include the severe Winter which forced factories to close and threatened agricultural markets. In March a landfill threatened the Abe and John Barley farm, (second picture from the top) and that ordeal made headlines for six weeks. Soybean prices jumped \$10 per bushel in April. Planting conditions last Spring weren't the greatest. A prolonged heat spell scorched farmers during mid-Summer, sparing no one. Tomato growers were among the hardest hit. In the Fall the rains and fairs came, while farmers dodged showers to get their crops in. In the end, the harvest report was nearly always good, thank God. Like any year, 1977 had its ups and downs. We hope it's been a good one for you, and that 1978 will be even better.

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