

# Lancaster Farming

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## Weather spreads grief and damage

### Barns collapse

By JOYCE BUYP  
Staff Correspondent

**YORK** -- Snow blew around the silos and funneled in on the top of the eight-year-old cement block and wooden truss staunchion barn extension at the Smyser's Richlawn dairy farm, East Berlin Road. Then, sometime late last Friday evening, the roof went down.

Trapped under the twisted

metal and broken timbers were 35 Holstein cows and a calf. Miraculously, only one animal was killed, pinned under overhead silage feeding equipment. Several other cows were treated for cuts and bruises to udders and backs.

Richard Smyser, who operates the farm with his sons, Robert and Rodney, discovered the collapsed 20 by 40 foot extension when he made a late night check on the herd. Members of the

Weiglestown Fire Company were called to assist in cutting through the pipes and debris to free the trapped cattle. With the peak of the roof lying directly down the middle of the center walkway, stall pipes surrounding the resting cows had held the structure just off the animals' backs. Cows were freed through the feeding areas along each side of the structure.

The original dairy facility

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### Crops suffer

By LAUREL SCHAEFFER  
Berks County Reporter

**READING** -- Many Berks County farmers, as well as farmers in surrounding areas are being constantly challenged with additional problems this Winter, caused by the unpredictable, and more often than not, adverse weather. Com-

pounding the earlier problems of decreased quantities of hay and straw has been the late, and in many cases the incompleting of Fall crops.

Not only has the delay in harvesting due to the unusually wet Fall caused problems itself, but it has also increased the dilemma faced by many farmers with bedding shortages. With the very high costs of straw,

farmers have been relying on corn fodder to ease the straw shortages but have had a difficult time getting it out of the fields because of rain, mud, ice and now snow, explained James Haldeman, Berks County Extension Agent. Some area farmers have had to go to other types of bedding such as sawdust and shavings, he added.

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## Farm trucking continues

By DIETER KRIEG

**LITITZ** -- Neither snow, ice or floods will stop the wheels of agriculture of conditions of the past 10 days can be given as proof of that statement.

While most farmers undoubtedly had their own share of problems and extra expenses to contend with due to the harsh weather of the past 10 days, they at least could heed the warnings of

the State Police to stay off the roads. The farmer's work is generally not far from his back door. Many others, however, have miles to drive to work. And a few, such as the truckers, have hundreds of miles to cover regardless of the weather outside.

This area's farmers apparently weathered the storms pretty well as far as deliveries and pick-ups are

concerned. The amount of milk which could not be picked up is very minimal, which, in the words of one spokesman, is a tribute to both dairymen and their haulers.

It hasn't been easy, however. Many truckers had their 10-hour days stretched to 14 and more. A few were stranded and could not get home for several days.

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The roof is gone at Smyser Richlawn Farm's dairy barn.



Fifty-five heifers owned by Perrydell Farm Dairy were trapped when a roof collapsed over their confinement area.

## Snow fells Farm Show

By JOANNE SPAHR

**HARRISBURG** -- Fortunately, the Winternational tractor pulls were over before last Sunday evening when pressure from accumulated snow and ice sent an approximated 75 tons of brick crashing through the roof of the new livestock offices and photo room on the western side of the Farm Show complex. It was also fortunate that the Penn-

sylvania Farm Show, held only two weeks prior, was over, or the estimated \$225,000 damage could have exceeded that monetary figure to include the deaths of many persons.

According to Wellington D. Smith, Farm Show director, the incident was partly due to deterioration of that 40 year old segment of the building.

The Farm Show director

explained that the complex has a parapet wall around the large arena. This wall extends four feet above the eaves of the roof and serves as a gutter to direct drainage from the roof into the roof drains. From the edge of the parapet wall to the ridge pole or peak of the roof, is about 125 feet. This sloped roof collects a large amount of snow.

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## Support prices may rise

By JOANNE SPAHR

**HARRISBURG** -- Tony T. Dechant, president of both the National Farmers Union and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, brought good news to 95 delegates assembled, here, for the 6th annual convention of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union on Monday and Tuesday.

Speaking at Monday even-

ing's banquet, Dechant told the delegates that as of that morning the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Sen. Herman Talmadge, D.-Ga., had invited Bob Bergland to come before the committee on Tuesday morning. At that time Talmadge was to voice his support of taking at least 50 million acres of land out of production at the cost of 3½ billion dollars. He was also to

recommend to Bergland that the administration increase the loan rate on wheat to \$2.75 per bushel, a 50 cent increase which will cost in the neighborhood of \$1 billion dollars. He is also proposing that the corn rate be raised by 50 cents, as well, to \$2.50 per bushel, and that the loan rate on soybeans go to \$5 per bushel. The corn boost will

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## Cattle future predicted

By DIETER KRIEG

**LANCASTER** -- Penn State's well-known agricultural economist, H. Louis Moore, predicts slight improvement in cattle prices for 1978, citing decreasing cattle numbers and comparatively low feed prices as the major reasons. He made the predictions during the multi-county Cattle Feeders

Day held this week at the Farm and Home Center, here.

Attended by nearly 200 cattle feeders despite bad weather, the Cattle Feeders Day addressed a number of topics of interest to cattlemen. Moore led the program with his assessment of the present economic factors.

The way Moore sees it, a number of uncertainties cloud the future. Some of the ones which aren't directly related to agriculture include the nation's trade deficit, inflation, the energy non-program, the protection of sentiments such as imports, the falling dollar in in-

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