

# Lancaster Farming

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## Bergland urges ASCS program participation

By JOANNE SPAHR  
HARRISBURG -- Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland last week nixed a recommendation by the Senate Agriculture Committee for an added \$8 billion farm package which would increase loan rates on various commodities and take 50 million acres of land out of production. Instead, Bergland advocated full participation in programs provided by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, saying that prices will rise to within acceptable levels if this is done. His goal, if it can be reached, is to put 300 million bushels of wheat under storage as well as 715 million bushels of feed grains. Beginning this week, ASCS offices around the country launched a drive to

familiarize farmers with the different opportunities provided through that government agency.

One of the programs is an extended loan policy by which a farmer with a current price support loan or

purchase agreement may enter his grain under storage for three years. During this time, he is advanced a

storage rate one year at a time. For corn, barley, and wheat, the rate is 20 cents and for oats 15 cents.

As long as the market price for the grains remains below a certain price, known as the release level, the farmer will not be permitted to sell his commodity. However, should the market price raise to that release level - 140 per cent of the loan rate in the case of wheat and 125 per cent of the loan rate for corn - then the farmer has the option to sell his grain on the open market and repay the loan.

Under these circumstances, the farmer is only held responsible for paying the interest and the principle, and not the storage costs.

It is expected that not all farmers, however, will release their grain, and for each month during the

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The top young farmers and agribusinessmen in the Red Rose FFA Chapter were chosen this week. Left to right are Brian Hess, Red Rose Star

Agribusinessman; Arlen Keener, runner-up in that contest; Brian Wise, Red Rose Star Farmer; and Bob Fox, runner-up.

## Red Rose FFA awards presented

By DIETER KRIEG

MOUNT JOY - Two 16-year old high school students from eastern Lancaster County won the titles of Red Rose Star Farmer and Red Rose Star Agribusinessman this week. The choices were made by a panel of judges during a contest held at the Mount Joy Vo-Tech School, here.

Winner of the Red Rose Star Farmer award is Brian Wise, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Roy Wise, Bowersville. Classmate Brian Hess, son of Mr. and Mrs. Omar Hess, Bareville, won the Red Rose Star Agribusinessman honor. Both young men are vo-ag students at Garden Spot High School and members of the Grassland FFA Chapter. Their instructor is Cliff Day.

Runner-up in the Star Farmer contest was Robert Fox, the 16-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fox of Litz R1. He's a junior at Ephrata High School and active in the Cloister FFA Chapter.

Elizabethtown's Arlen Keener, 16, won the runner-up position among the agribusiness candidates. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Keener, he's active in 4-H, FFA, and the registered Holstein organizations.

Competing in a contest which is open to all Lancaster County vo-ag students who have completed preliminary requirements, this year's winners join a group of agriculture

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## Egg prices up this week

LITITZ - After more than a month of dropping prices from week to week, egg handlers are paying about four cents more per dozen this week for larger sized eggs.

Demand is described as "fairly good" as prices quoted per dozen large eggs went as high as 68 cents in the Baltimore area. That's up four cents over the previous week. In Philadelphia, large eggs were quoted as high as 62 cents this week, up from 58 cents the week before. A month ago the same sized eggs sold for up to 66 cents per dozen in the Philadelphia area. In late December, egg prices were in the low seventies for extra large eggs.

Medium sized eggs are showing similar price trends this week, but the smaller grades are holding on to the lower prices of the week before.

The rising egg prices aren't anywhere near where they were a year ago, however, when extra large eggs were quoted at upwards of 90 cents per dozen and large eggs were bringing 83 to 89½ cents per dozen, according to figures released by Philadelphia egg markets on Feb. 2, 1977.

A survey of egg prices this week shows that all markets are up, with Baltimore being up the highest.

## Lamb care methods shared

By KENDACE BORRY  
Editor's note—This is the first in a two part story on the special care needed during lambing season. This week's article deals with early care of the ewe and lamb up to one week after lambing. Next week's article will deal with care and consideration after the lamb leaves the lambing pen.

LANCASTER -- It's lambing time for most sheep breeders in the Lancaster Farming area and newborn lambs need some special care if they are to be ensured the best chance of survival in the cold weather. With a little extra consideration, a young lamb will have a much better chance for a start at a healthy life.

The concepts presented here come from a variety of breed sheep owners who all raise their own lambs and have found the method that has worked best for them. Sharing their ideas on early lamb care were: Mrs. Clyde Brubaker, Lancaster; Mrs. William MacCauley, Atglen

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With proper care these lambs will have a much better chance for survival. This protective mother watches as her lambs begin to explore their surroundings.

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## Tobacco stripper invented

By DIETER KRIEG  
POINT PLEASANT, W. Va. - This could be the last season of manual tobacco stripping for those who might have \$2500 handy next Fall to buy a machine which will do as much stripping in an hour as what a man can do in a day. The price may even be on the high side, according to the machine's inventor.

The new machine was invented by a retired history professor who's now farming near this West Virginia town. Dr. Lawrence Butcher, the inventor, claims his product will strip 900 stalks per hour, or about a stalk every four seconds when three men are feeding it. Butcher, who's also the administrative assistant to the Mason County Commission, doesn't have much time to strip tobacco by hand. He remembers the days when he used to watch his grandfather strip tobacco and even then thought about the

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