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Snow, winds stall farm deliveries

By KENDACE BORRY
LANCASTER - "Snow and blow" is the way one milk hauler summed up the weather problem faced in the Lancaster Farming area this week. And his thoughts were echoed by dairy farmers, poultrymen, feed company representatives, and others as they related the problems faced by the effects of Monday's storm.

The biggest concern of dairy farmers this past week was, of course, whether the tank truck would get through in time to save the milk. And reports from all areas were optimistic, with milk dumping incidents few and scattered.

Robert Kreider, of Kreider Bros., Quarryville R1; said that Monday and Tuesday were the worst, as far as the storm was concerned, but he added that as of Thursday night, they were still not caught up in making their milk pickups. A tank truck, which was expected back from Philadelphia on Monday at 10 a.m., he explained, managed to get stuck in a drift until 11:30

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Straw price continues to soar

By JOANNE SPAHR
LITITZ - Those already inflated straw prices just keep going up with this week's market averaging from \$98 to \$120 per ton. This is in comparison to an average of \$85 to \$115 per ton two months ago and \$65 to \$69 a year ago.

Blaming the shortage on reduced acreage of small grains due to high yielding thin crops, as well as poor growing conditions this year and a strong demand for the bedding farmers have been faced with seeking alternatives.

One fairly common substitute has been wood shavings. Several farmers spoken to actually prefer this type of bedding to straw, saying that it cushions better and is easier to clean. The one drawback is that it requires much more manual labor to handle.

"I really do think shavings are better than straw," said York County dairyman Paul King, "it's cheaper, but it does take more work to put in the barn."

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Lancaster Farming photo by Dieter Krieg

The entrance to Lititz Springs Park wore Winter's majestic robes on Thursday morning. The snow and ice caused problems for many -- but somehow the wintry scenes can be exceptionally beautiful.

Young Farmers meet

LANCASTER - Pennsylvania Young Farmers gathered here this week for two days of educational programs and recognition of individual achievements. Attended by more than 230 members from all over the state despite bad weather earlier in the week, the event was described as a success by organizers.

The Host Town Motel in Lancaster was the scene of the activities, which included tours, workshops, business meetings, and management discussions.

At a recognition banquet on Thursday night, a number of Pennsylvania Young Farmers were singled out for their achievements.

Lancaster County's Tom Zartman, Ephrata R1, finished in second place in the state the race for Outstanding Young Farmer under 30 years of age. The top spot was won by Wayne Hall of Shippensburg R1. Zartman was first for his region.

Hershey Bare, a Lebanon County dairy farmer finished first in the state in

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Truckers asking for relief

By DIETER KRIEG
LANCASTER - Snow and ice are just two of the problems truckers face during severe Winter weather. According to interviews this week with area milk haulers, other problems exist. A few of them are evident the year around.

In some situations the farmer can help significantly, in others it'll take more than the producer and warm weather to assure hauling efficiency.

According to area milk haulers, icy farm lanes rate as one of their major problems during the Winter. They claim that if a farmer has cinders or sand available in a dry place, it'll save the haulers both time and money. And it could mean the difference between a farmer getting his milk

picked up on time or having to dump hundreds of gallons. While cinders and sand won't solve all the problems truckers are incurring in fierce Winter weather, they insist it would save them

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