

# Lancaster Farming

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Strict precautions and security measures are being advised for all Lancaster County poultrymen due to continued outbreaks of an infectious viral disease known as laryngotracheitis. More than 400,000 birds have been affected by the disease since last October, with the disease now appearing in some of the larger flocks. No segment of the industry is being spared. Breeding, broiler, egg-laying

pullet, and back-yard operations have all been hit by the disease. The Lancaster County Poultry Association formed a Task Force this week to help bring the disease under control. They urge poultrymen to take heed of the security and safety measures listed in the article accompanying this picture. First on the list is a padlock and sign asking everyone to keep out of the building.

## Area poultry industry threatened

By DIETER KRIEG

LANCASTER — The Lancaster County Poultry Association formed a Laryngotracheitis Task Force this week to help prevent the spread of the highly contagious disease which has been discovered in the county no fewer than 25 times since late October.

The Task Force is using a practical approach backed by

inputs from other parts of the country to try and halt the spread of the disease. Poultry specialists at Penn State and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture are cooperating in the effort.

The primary thrust of the disease control program is to urge poultrymen to take precautionary measures. "We want to alert the poultry industry that we have a pro-

blem," said Ed Moshier emphatically. He and others, such as Dr. E.T. Mallinson, chief of the avian health division at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, both stress security factors.

Jay Irwin, Lancaster County Extension agent who specializes in poultry, adds: "We hope people take it seriously and not think that the disease can't happen to them."

Laryngotracheitis, known as LT for short, is a respiratory ailment which has a five to 17 per cent mortality rate. Symptoms of the disease include watery eyes, coughing, sneezing, general breathing difficulty accompanied by a wheezing noise, and a shaking of the

essential. It is used to protect against botulism, a bacterial toxin that can cause paralysis and death.

It gives cured meats their special flavor and appearance. It is needed to make bacon, most sausages, hams, and some other meat

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## Use of nitrate in cured meats defended

By KENDACE BORRY  
ELIZABETHTOWN — "If the process of using nitrite in curing meat is banned by the FDA, not only will meat processors be hurt. Farmers will lose money tied up in hog operations and the

agricultural community will be hurt in general," stated Stephen Krut, assistant executive director of the American Association of Meat Processors. The organization, located in Elizabethtown, in northern

Lancaster County, is concerned about the situation and what is going to happen to the use of the controversial substance.

Nitrite, which is converted from sodium nitrate, a natural occurring substance,

is used to cure meats. At the present time, both nitrate and nitrite is allowed to be used under the Federal Meat Inspection Regulations.

In the present system of curing meats, Krut continued, the use of nitrite is

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## Hog profits predicted for all of 1978

By DIETER KRIEG  
LANCASTER — Abundant supplies of cheap feed will help encourage livestock farmers to utilize grains in their rations, says Penn State's Extension economist Douglas Moore. The Penn

Stater was in town Tuesday to address a crowd of nearly 250 hog farmers who were gathered here at the Lancaster County Farm and Home Center for the annual Swine Producers' Day.

The comparatively cheap

feeding program will keep swine production profitable despite declining hog prices, predicts Moore. He expects hog prices to dip to the 38-40 cents per pound range by April, and into the mid to upper 30's by June.

In a sampling of audience opinion, Moore determined that the swine producers themselves were a bit more optimistic about prices than either Moore, or the quotations of the Chicago Futures Market for the day. Although some members in the crowd disagreed, the Extension economist believes there'll be money in the hog business for the remainder of the year. A number of factors go into that bit of crystalballing, but the cheap feed situation ranks uppermost in that estimation.

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## Answers sought for surplus milk

By DIETER KRIEG  
LANCASTER — Greater advertising revenues, supply cut-back programs, and sharper cow culling practices are all being considered to bring America's longest consecutive upward

trend in milk production to a halt. Ever since August of 1975, milk production in the United States has climbed steadily. Never before in the history of the dairy industry has such a lengthy con-

tinuous increase been recorded. The result has been surplus production and worrisome marketing situations.

Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative, Inc., whose

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