

# Lancaster Farming

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## Storms damage crops

By JOANNE SPAHR-LITITZ - Monday and Tuesday evening's heavy downpours caused scattered damage to crops in Lancaster Farming's coverage area, with the most damage sustained in Lancaster County.

Although damage was not

severe in most cases, there were reports that small grain stands were blown down, tobacco plants drowned, and some corn affected. However the worst problem probably came from erosion.

"This was not a general storm," noted M.M. Smith,

Lancaster County Extension director, "some areas had no problems at all. But, I do think a lot of topsoil left the fields."

This was the case in the Mount Joy area. Robert Brandt, Manheim R2, was forced to redig a channel when two feet of soil from a

nearby woods filled in his creek bed. He reports that it took three hours of work to dig the channel, a chore he had never been forced to do before this particular incident.

Brandt also stated that he

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## Credit is tightening

By DIETER KRIEG LANCASTER - Money hasn't been as readily available this year as in previous years, and according to many commercial bankers that's a fact which isn't likely to change in the next six months. Money is tight and interest rates are climbing.

While money is still on hand for those who want to borrow, bankers are looking at loan applications closer than ever before. That's being done for several reasons. Aside from protecting themselves from possible bad debts, bankers also want to make sure that they'll have enough money

available for their present customers' operating needs. In addition, bankers are giving stronger consideration to their own cash flow. They want to be assured of debt payments coming in so that the incoming money can be "recycled" for other loans.

Borrowing power is

definitely not what it once was. Not only is money in short supply, interest rates are climbing. Depending on the type of loan and lending institution being considered, interest rates can exceed 10 per cent.

While money is becoming scarce, debts are mounting.

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## Replacement cow prices high

By JOANNE SPAHR-LITITZ - One cattle dealer, who has spent a lifetime in the business, reports that the prices which replacement cattle are presently bringing are the highest he's ever seen.

"The prices for replacement animals have

been up and down over the years," reports Merle Breneman, Mount Joy R3, "but this definitely the biggest span I've ever seen."

Right now, according to a consensus of cattle dealers and auctioneers, good grade springers are bringing

anywhere from \$700 to \$1200; commercial dry cows \$700 to \$800 and up; and top bred heifers from \$800 to \$1200 with a few selling at \$1500. And, at the Pennsylvania Holstein Association's state bred heifer sale on March 31, 68 head averaged \$1601. A year ago, reports Farm

Journal, those cattle would have gone for less than \$1000 apiece.

There's no doubt about it, the cost of replacement cattle is high.

"Everything's \$200 to \$300 higher than a year ago," reports Breneman.

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## Barley harvest varied in area

By JOANNE SPAHR-LITITZ - Combines were out in barley fields this week beginning that grain's harvest. And, while it is a little early to get a complete picture of this year's crop, several millers, farmers, and custom combiners were able to give Lancaster

Farming an overview of what is happening at the present time.

According to reports, the quality, weight, and bushel per acre of the crop is widely varied depending upon the area in which the grain is grown. In the Mount Joy section of Lancaster County,

millers report that little of the grain has been combined. They also express the concern that the past week's rains will create more problems for their already-late crop.

"The weeds are growing up, and the wet fields will make it tough to get in with

combines," notes Larry Garber with Wenger's Mill, Elizabethtown. Garber reported on Thursday that most of that area's Barsoy barley was still standing.

Heistand Brothers, Elizabethtown, also reported that as of Thursday they had

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## Germans start Adams County egg farm

By DIETER KRIEG HEIDLERSBURG - Ground was broken here this week for a poultry operation which has captured the attention and imagination of many Pennsylvania egg producers. The reason for the profound interest is twofold: The egg farm will house 1 million laying hens

and also have its own facilities for raising replacement birds. What really has everyone talking, however, is the fact that this huge venture in the egg business in Adams County, Pennsylvania, is foreign owned.

At a time when Congress, farm organizations and

numerous individuals are debating and discussing ownership of American farmland by foreigners, the Adams County egg ranch is attracting considerable attention. Talk and rumors about the operation have been circulating for months. Early this week it became official that two very suc-

cessful poultrymen from West Germany were indeed expanding their interests in rural Adams County.

The site of the 625-acre, 1 million chicken farm is just outside of the village of Heidlersburg, about 10 miles northeast of Gettysburg. The land was reportedly pur-

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## Watershed group urges involvement

By KENDACE BORRY MANHEIM - About three years ago, a group of farmers and other residents living near Manheim gathered together and formed the Chickies Creek Watershed Association. Urged to band together by the Department of Environmental Resources, the people involved joined

together to assist in resolving the matter of the problem involving the floodplain of the Chickies Creek.

"While our main thrust at the moment is still involved with the study of Chickies Creek and its flooding problem, we're also involved in many other things," Wayne Shenberber

president, related. "We're interested in conservation, the proper use of our resources, and the improvement of living conditions for the people that live in the area, too."

At the present time, though, the association is concerned with the study of Chickies Creek that is being done throughout the

Manheim area. The study is under the direction of the Lancaster Conservation District, the Lancaster County Commissioners, and the Manheim Borough.

"The study is justified, the flooding in Manheim is pretty bad," Shenberber stated. "Plus there is a problem with their own

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Warm Summer weather has ripened some of the small grain fields in southeastern Pennsylvania, but frequent heavy rains are holding up combining.

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