

# Lancaster Farming

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## Judge supports poultry farmer's building plans

*Plaintiffs are expected to appeal this landmark decision.*

*Meanwhile ag zoning disputes in other counties draw attention.*

By DIETER KRIEG

**NEW PROVIDENCE** — A zoning dispute which had been simmering for most of the year came to a conclusion early this week. The case was regarded as one which could have profound impact on the future of Pennsylvania poultry farming operations.

Although an appeal by the plaintiffs is a near certainty, the decision by Judge D. Richard Eckman of Lancaster is expected to hold. He ruled Monday that Lancaster County poultryman Robert S. Weaver is allowed to build a 360-foot by 48-foot barn for broilers. Some of

Weaver's neighbors stopped construction of the facility last winter, claiming that the poultry house was too close to some of their properties and not set back far enough from the road.

The site in question is zoned Rural Agriculture and is just outside of the village of New Providence.

While the Weaver case seems to be settled, pending a final decision after the motion is appealed, other disputes in several Pennsylvania counties are gaining momentum.

A Lehigh County turkey farmer, for

example, is being stopped by a township ordinance which won't allow him to construct additional buildings unless they set back more than half a mile from neighboring properties. Facing that dilemma is Fred Jandl of Orefield R1. The township with the 2700-foot setback requirements for any poultry house designed for more than 1000 birds is South Whitehall Township, north of Allentown.

The land in question is zoned for agriculture.

In other disputes concerning agricultural uses of land, a York

Countian is complaining about losing his farm to recreational interests, and a Northumberland County hog farmer may be taken to court by a Wilmington, Del. man to halt construction of new facilities. A \$50,000 suit was filed last summer. The hog farmer owns 230 acres near Klingerstown, has been in business for more than 20 years, and feeds out more than 5000 hogs per year. The Wilmington man purchased an adjoining tract of 130 acres, built a house on it, and claims the hog operation is threatening his land.

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## John Barley is Jaycees' top farmer

By DIETER KRIEG

**WASHINGTON BORO** — John Barley, who made headlines a year and a half ago when the Lancaster Area Refuse Authority (LARA) wanted to use a portion of his farm for a landfill, has been named the Outstanding Young Farmer in Pennsylvania by the State Jaycees. The announcement was made a week ago at a Jaycees banquet in Monroeville.

As winner of the prestigious award, Barley and his wife, Jane, will be eligible for national competition in February. The United States Jaycees sponsor that contest as well.

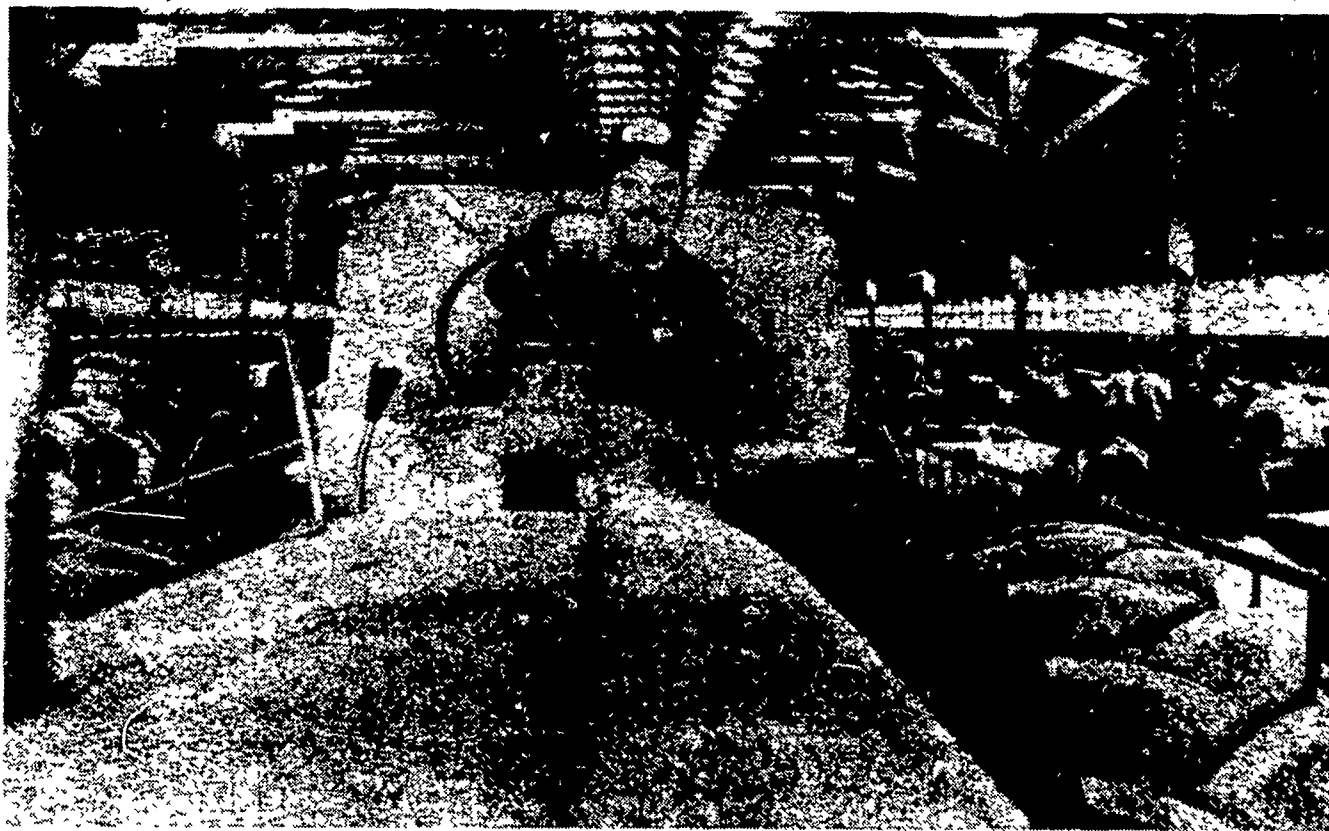
Barley, 32, is a partner in one of Lancaster County's largest dairy operations - Star Rock Farms, which he owns and operates with his brother, Abram.

Abram, 38, was not eligible for the OYF contest since the age limit is 35.

The Jaycees base their award on accomplishments, including net worth statements at the beginning of the contestant's farming career compared to recent figures.

John Barley, who started his agricultural enterprises right out of Penn Manor High School in 1963, today has a stake in 650 acres and 950 head of Holstein dairy cattle. All told, he and his brother and six hired hands farm 1200 tillable acres. Barley started out 15 years ago renting a 70-acre farm in partnership with his brother.

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John Barley's farming operation is big in scope, and according to the Pennsylvania Jaycees, it's tops.

## Beef future looks good from here

By JOAN LIESAU

**LITITZ** — The general consensus from industry leaders and market reports points to one conclusion: the cattle just aren't around and we are seeing high prices for slaughter cattle.

Cattle slaughter during September, at 67,300 head, was down 23 per cent from last September while prices at the Lancaster Market and Lancaster Auction are ten to 15 cents per hundredweight higher than the previous year.

The present demand for

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## Bin-bustin' crops are a near certainty

By DIETER KRIEG

**LANCASTER** — American farmers are harvesting record amounts of corn, soybeans hay and potatoes, according to statistics being revealed in the nation's capital and in agricultural centers around the country.

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## Storm water bill signed into law

By KENDACE BORRY

**HARRISBURG** — The storm water management act was signed into law by Gov. Shapp on October 4.

Under this law, each county is required to submit a storm water management plan for each watershed located within the county within two years, following guidelines to be issued by the DER. These guidelines are expected to be issued by May of 1979.

Planning costs per watershed can range anywhere from \$5,000 to

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## Ideas aired for land use planning

By DIETER KRIEG

**LANCASTER** — Good agricultural zoning is possible and it works. That's the consensus of several men who have worked closely with zoning projects and shared their ideas here Wednesday evening before a land use planning conference sponsored by the Lancaster County Extension Service. Jay Irwin, Extension agent, moderated the 2½-hour meeting, held at the Farm and Home Center.

Participating as panelists were David Schreffler, chairman of the Planning Commission for Millcreek Township in Lebanon County; John Heisey, Mount Joy Township Planning Commission member; Isaac Eby, Clay Township supervisor; and John Keretzman, zoning officer for Salisbury Township. Also taking part in the program were Bob Behling from the Lancaster County Planning Commission and the Extension Service's area land use agent, Robin Ream.

The purpose of the meeting was to uncover and discuss ideas for the preservation of farmland. All of the gentlemen who spoke claimed that effective measures were being taken in their townships and similar procedures could be applied in other areas. They encouraged the farmers and other interested individuals to do just that.

The most important step towards putting a land use plan into effect is for concerned farmers to become

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