

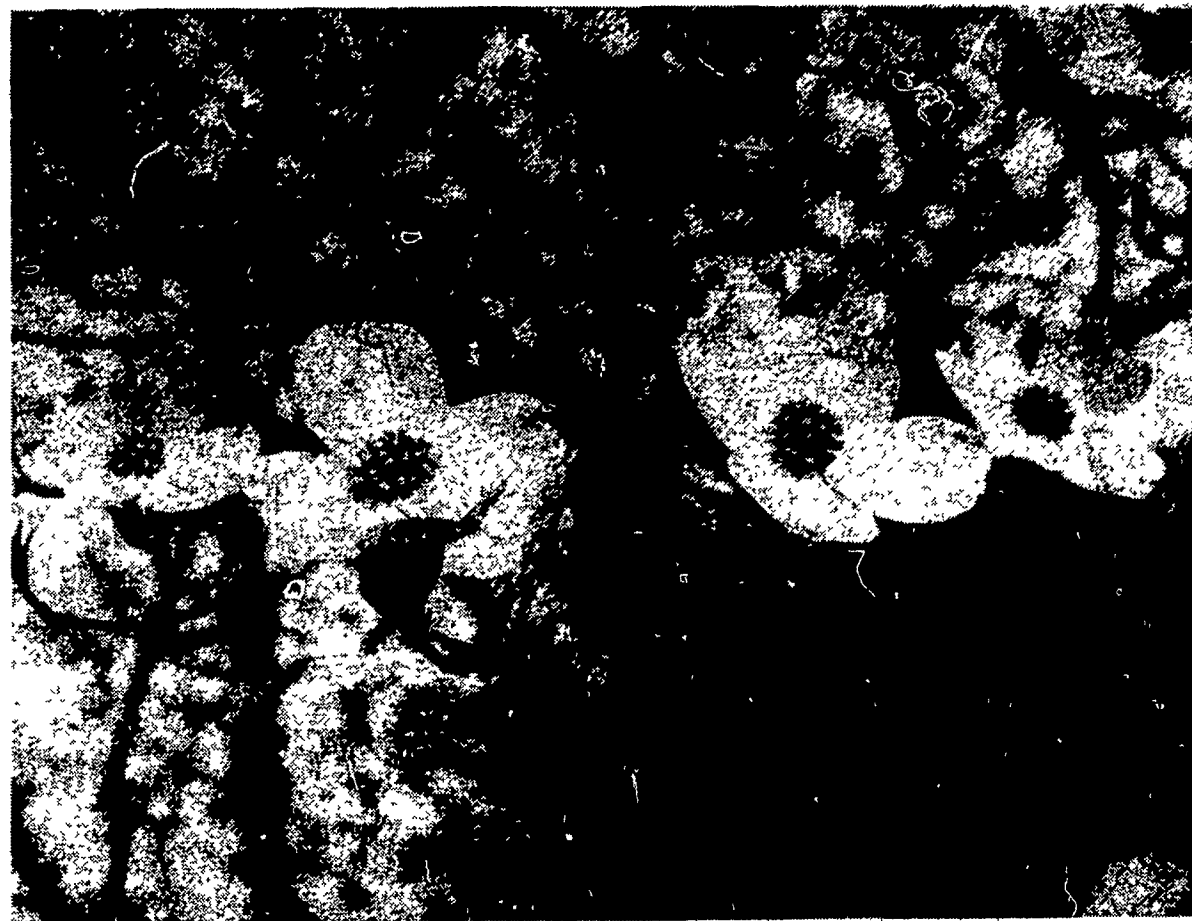
# Lancaster Farming

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## Good strawberry crop forecast by growers

By KENDACE BORRY  
LITITZ — The forecast for this year's strawberry crop in Lancaster County was "good to excellent", when area growers surveyed their fields this week.

Most of the strawberry patches were reported in bloom, with several, as of Thursday, seen in "full bloom". And while owners noted that the strawberries will be arriving a little later this year than last year's crop, they were hopeful for a bountiful yield.

Mrs. Carlton Groff, Kirkwood, reported that the strawberry crop that she and her husband raise "has just finished blooming" and termed it possibly "the best crop we ever had".

She told that this year there have been no problems with the fruit, no frost damage, and reported that although the Groffs' didn't use that much mulch around the plants, during the cold weather they had a good snow cover, which kept them from freezing.

"They really look good," she commented. "They may start to ripen around the 24th or 25th of May."

Peter Alexih, of Herr's Fruit Farms, Lancaster R2, termed the crop as "excellent".

"This slow warming trend, with the cool nights, really helped them," he reported. "We had no frost to speak of, and the bloom was excellent."

"They're in full bloom now," he added. "We'll be in

full swing with the crop in early June."

"I think that after this week (ending May 10) that we won't have to worry about frost," he continued. "But because of the cold Winter the crop will be a little later than last year's"

Fred Funk, reporting for Funk's Farm Market, Millersville, called the strawberries "real nice".

"The younger fields are terrific," he commented. "We had two light frosts, but we irrigated and there was

no problem. The blossoms look real good and there was little Winter damage."

"It should be a good crop," he continued. "The strawberries should start coming in around May 27, with the main crop ready from May 29 into the beginning of June, if the weather continues warm."

Funk thought this year was a normally timed season for the crop, although he added that weather like this past week's could spur the crop on.

"We have been irrigating our fields," he added.

Referring to prices, he thought that in the retail marketing, the prices should hold about the same as last year's, unless something unforeseen, like a late severe frost, should happen.

"But right now the crop looks good," he summed it up.

Mrs. Melvin Eby, Manheim, commented that although there have been no

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## Hearing on right to build swine facility held

By JOAN LIESAU  
WEST HEMPFIELD — Hearings were held May 8 at the West Hempfield Township Building to determine whether two Lancaster County farmers had the right to build sow confinement operations on their land, which is zoned agricultural.

Jay Rohrer, Manheim R7,

of Terra Grain Incorporated, presented his case before the zoning board to approve construction of a \$750,000, 480 sow, total confinement hog operation. Lawyers representing Terra Grain and also various residents of Salunga and nearby areas were in full force at the meeting.

The zoning board passed

down the decision to review Terra Grain's case and give notice at their next meeting in June. "There are many points involved," stated Vice Chairman of the Board Gary Mitchell, Lancaster.

Rohrer owns 108 acres of farm land which has a 15 acre lot across Spooky Nook and Prospect Roads. This lot is where the facility is proposed.

500,000 gallon open topped aerated slurry tank.

Sam Fields of SANDS (the company who will build the facility) testified to the buildings being water tight and totally sealed. "With this type of aeration system, you don't need to treat with chemicals." He explained that "bacteria produces the odor, and we're eliminating the bacteria through air movement in the facility and through flushing and sanitizing. The incinerator (used for the disposal of dead pigs) "eliminates any possible odors, dissemination or contamination of any sort."

Fields explained that with such hot gases, and the double burners used, it eliminates any odors. Fields

also testified that the only odor that would be detectable from the facility would be a very small amount 50 feet, to the extreme of 200 feet from the slurry tank.

Several surrounding property owners testified against the proposed Terra Grain Inc. facility. Most of the opposition was directed against the odor and possible

decrease in land value in the surrounding area. Opposition came from Russel Cooper, owner of Sunset Mobile Home Park. His park is 1300 feet from the 15 acre building site. (The facility was estimated to require six per cent of the 15 acre field.)

"I feel a lot of people are

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### Dairy issue coming

On June 9, LANCASTER FARMING will recognize the area's dynamic dairy industry with its Annual Dairy Issue.

We extend a special invitation to dairy groups and organizations, as well as individuals, to submit articles

and news on dairying for the Dairy Issue.

To be sure you make the Dairy Issue, please submit all advertising and editorial material by Tuesday, June 5. Call us at 717-394-3047 or 717-626-1164. Or write Lancaster Farming, Box 366, Lititz, Pa. 17543.

The total confinement facility would eventually be from farrow to finish. Anyone entering the building is required to shower and wear white coveralls and boots for disease protection. The building proposed is environmentally controlled. The proposed manure handling system includes a

decrease in land value in the surrounding area. Opposition came from Russel Cooper, owner of Sunset Mobile Home Park. His park is 1300 feet from the 15 acre building site. (The facility was estimated to require six per cent of the 15 acre field.)

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