

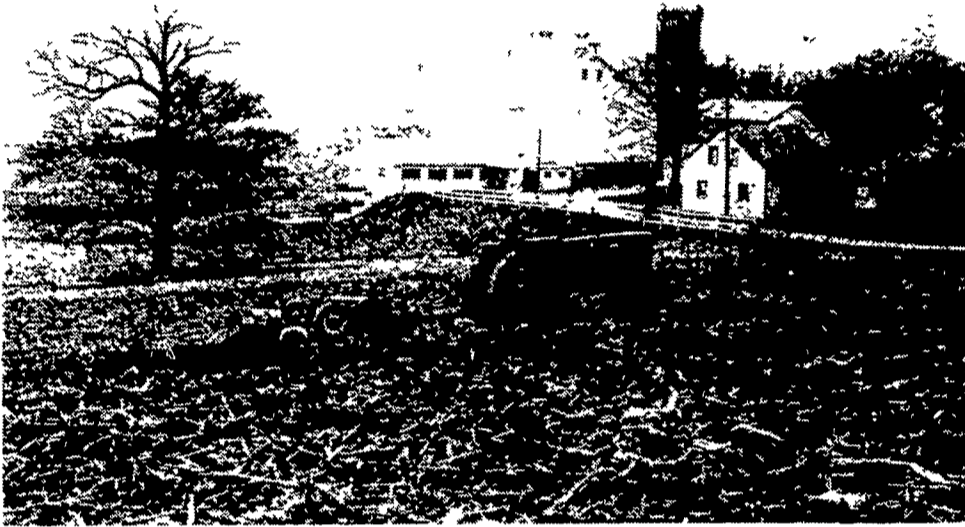
Lancaster Farming

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Tobacco buyers active, farmers slow to sell



Temperatures at mid-week set record highs -- 66 degrees on Tuesday, 68 on Wednesday. And farmers like Luke E. Martin, Brickerville, took advantage of the weather to get some fall tillage done. But by week's end the weather broke and temperatures returned to December-like chill.

NATO studying Lancaster County

Land use planning: the view from outside

BY CURT HARLER
LANCASTER — Lancaster County is one of two counties in the United States to be the focus of a NATO study on land use planning. NATO is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a group of Western countries including the United States and most nations in Europe. The other county being studied is Rockingham County in Virginia. Currently, Rockingham County is bubbling with controversy over a proposed Coors Brewery plant which many local people fear will be the beginning of the end for one of Virginia's top agricultural counties. Lancaster County was chosen because of its exceptional agricultural tradition and because it currently is in the throes of establishing a farm land preservation program. Conducting the research for NATO is Jose N. DeLima, a Portuguese who

has spent most of his adult life in Paris, France. The study, DeLima said, is to be a comparative one between the Lancaster County situation and the problems in Rockingham County, Virginia. A planner by profession, DeLima brings to his work background from Portugal and France in land use zoning. He said the Virginia situation and Lancaster County's are quite similar while both are different from the European outlook. In Virginia, Coors Brewery is seen by many farmers as a threat to their land. The brewery will be the first major industry in an otherwise rural county. DeLima said he found some farmers were willing to sell their land to the brewery while others were unwilling even to have Coors in the county. Questions of environmental protection were raised. Some factions seem

to believe the brewery will mean more employment for the people of the county and see it as a boon for the area. (Turn to Page 47)

BY DEBRA STRICKLER LITITZ — This week, two weeks ahead of last year's schedule, tobacco buyers began visiting and telephoning area growers. According to reports, the market opened early Tuesday morning with Lancaster Leaf and House of Windsor, of Yoe, York County, among the first buyers.

Since Tuesday, Block and the Lorillard Corporations have also had buyers on the market.

A. K. Mann has visited growers and examined the crops in the past two weeks. They have purchased some top quality sorted tobacco, but are waiting to see how the grower chooses to strip this year's crop before establishing a market price.

Averaging a few cents higher than last years selling price, the majority of buyers are offering 65 cents per pound for the sound tobacco. House of Windsor opened at 66 cents.

Paul Witman of Lancaster Leaf said, "the buying is very slow at this point."

As of Friday morning only a few small crops had been

purchased by Lancaster Leaf.

According to Ray Myers, superintendent of the Lorillard Corporation, it is too early to know the actual tobacco growers response to the 65 cent price.

"A lot of the company's buyers, have not reported back," he said.

Myers saw this year's crop as good, with a fair amount available, although there are areas that are mighty thin, he noted.

The blue mold fungus and poor weather conditions for curing have had a major affect on the crop.

As growers begin to strip (Turn to Page 29)

Legislative roundup

Eminent domain moves, comp bills face fight

BY DICK WANNER
HARRISBURG — If Governor Thornburgh hadn't been under the weather this week, chances are Senate Bill 276, the eminent domain measure, would have been signed into law.

The bill provides for an agricultural review board to determine whether or not lands being sought for highways and landfills constitute the best possible use of those lands.

Rep. Noah Wenger, who

supported the measure in its journey through the House, said it gives the agricultural community some control over the seizure, by eminent domain proceedings, of good farmland.

The bill also gives PennDOT the right to purchase outright some of the lands it may need for future highway projects.

Should those projects be dropped before they get out of the planning stage, the bill sets guidelines for selling the land back to the original property owners, if he wants it, or to another farm user.

But movement to reform Pennsylvania's unemployment and workmen's compensation laws appears hopeless in the eyes of Gibson Armstrong, a Lancaster County representative who chairs the House committee on unemployment and workmen's compensation.

"It's depressing," Armstrong said this week even though one piece of compensation legislation did clear both the State Senate and the House.

"We have the most liberal programs in the whole country. Some people can make, and they have made, more tax-free dollars by not working than they can by working and paying taxes.

"We need reforms badly," Gibson said, "and some of (Turn to Page 47)



The Paul Grim barn, near Virginville, Berks County, shows off brightly painted livestock against a red background. See related story on page 24.

Blocking chutes banned from Farm Show building

The chuting match at Farm Show

BY SHEILA MILLER
HARRISBURG — For cattlemen planning to exhibit at the 1980 Pennsylvania Farm Show, the new ruling posted in the Premium List created quite a stir. The beef people were up in arms about the fact that for the first time

blocking chutes were banned from the grounds because they were said to be a fire hazard.

This ruling has recently been modified, according to Charles Itle, Farm Show manager. Because of numerous requests by cattlemen, the Farm Show

Commission has notified exhibitors that the blocking chutes will be permitted, but not in the building. There will be areas designated in the parking areas next to the beef barns where the chutes can be kept.

Why were the cattlemen so alarmed at the original

ruling? According to Gene Sweigard, of R.D. 3 Halifax, without the use of the blocking chutes there would have been a significant safety hazards for exhibitors and spectators during the week-long show.

Another cattleman who agrees with Sweigard is

Fred Frey of Quarryville. He said that he feels that the chutes provide spectator protection, especially now since the trend is for more high-strung, exotic breeds to be shown.

"Children like to reach out

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