

# Lancaster Farming

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## Buyer cops out

### Ch. steer won't budge from Farm Show

BY SHEILA MILLER  
HARRISBURG — "It's an unfortunate Farm Show first," said Hugh Coffman, Pennsylvania's Farm Show director.

He was referring to "Old No. 4", a market steer that was sold during the show's Junior beef sale, but never found its way out of the barns.

"We kind of like having Old No. 4 around," Coffman chuckled, "but we want to see the young lady and her family get the money they're entitled to. We also want to uphold the integrity of the sale."

The young lady Coffman mentioned is Debra Krause, Lehigh County. Her project steer, Blackjack, had been

tagged the reserve champion lightweight steer in competition at last week's Farm Show.

The steer, now known as No. 4 to Farm Show Commission employees, was auctioned off last Friday, but somehow the steer's buyer never returned to settle up for his bid.

Coffman said the buyer had until 10 a.m. on Saturday to claim the animal, but the deadline passed with no glimpse of the bidder. He said the bid was apparently fraudulent.

So, Blackjack, alias No. 4, was inadvertently given a stay of execution. In the meantime, the steer enjoyed the attentions of the Farm Show employees who

took turns feeding, bedding, and taking the steer for exercise in the large arena. Stable accommodations for the celebrity steer were made in the dairy barn.

Coffman stated he hoped to reach a decision on what to do with No. 4 soon.

Because of the publicity about the steer, the Farm Show director said a lot of bids were being called in over the telephone.

On Wednesday, Paul Konhaus of Konhaus Farm in Mechanicsburg, came to the rescue. He offered to match the original bid for the light weight champion steer, Blackjack, and saved Debra Krause from being the only loser in this year's Junior Beef Sale.



Only the shell of charred lumber and twisted metal feed bins remain after fire destroyed the Thomasville Livestock Auction earlier this week.

### Early morning fire levels Thomasville auction

BY JOYCE BUPP  
Staff Correspondent  
THOMASVILLE — Fire roared through the Thomasville Livestock

Auction early Monday, leaving a leveled building and over \$100,000 worth of damage in its wake.

Flames broke out in the York County sales facility at about 2:30 a.m. and burned out of control for over three hours.

An estimated 150 firefighters from six area companies are reported to have helped battle the blaze.

State fire marshalls were investigating but had not determined the cause of the fire, believed to have begun in the second floor office of the auction. Losses included the weighing scale, office equipment and supplies.

"We plan to rebuild and thank everyone who helped," stated president Leroy Williams, Spring Grove Rd, who runs the

auction with manager Roy Mummert, Brodbeck's Rd.

Williams added that they hope to continue private treaty business on a limited basis and will do everything possible to help farmers find sales for their livestock.

He heads a board of farmer stockholders who own and operate the livestock sales business, located west of York on Route 30.

No animals were in the livestock pens at the auction, which handles between 500 to 600 animals weekly through the Wednesday evening sales.

The auction also hosts various 4-H livestock events and has been the site of the annual York-Adams Baby Beef Roundup for several years.

### County members receive awards

### Inter-State locals begin annual meetings

BY CURT HARLER  
QUARRYVILLE — Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative kicked off its round of local meetings Thursday with the annual dinner of the Christiana and Quarryville locals in Quarryville.

Members elected new officers, honored outstanding achievements of several members, and were assured by Co-op Assistant General Manager Paul E. Hand that their Co-op is doing well.

A similar meeting was held at the same time in Cochranville, Chester County. See accompanying story.

Hand told dairymen Inter-State is holding its own with 3000 members but is increasing milk volume at the rate of 100 million pounds per year.

He said the increase was healthy and would allow the Co-op to fill increased market demand as well as meet changing processor schedules.

He said by fall the Co-op should have sufficient volume to meet demand without going outside the Co-op. But there are some problems.

Hand noted increased hauling costs must be anticipated. Hauling is adjusted at one-half cent per five cent increase in fuel cost to truckers.

He pointed out this is not money in the truckers' pockets, just funds to keep them even.

He also said the nine cent

handling charge would be reviewed. He said other Pennmarva Co-ops are charging about 15 cents per cwt.

He told members the Holly plant in Mt. Holly Springs ran at full capacity for 12 days over the Christmas holidays.

A fire last April set the plant back. And there have been other problems.

Since that time Inter-State and its partner Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers have replaced the manager and Hand said he expects Holly to be a viable proposition for members in the 1980s.

"It only needs fine tuning as the Christmas success demonstrates," Hand said.

He again warned farmers (Turn to Page A34)

### Dairy, tax, domain bills await legislators' return

BY DICK WANNER  
Staff Correspondent  
HARRISBURG — It was a fairly slow week in Harrisburg, with the legislature still in recess and not due to convene again until Monday.

A number of committees, however, have been meeting and mulling over a few items of interest to farmers. Milk security fund legislation is the hottest piece of ag legislation going, with a bewildering number of variants under consideration.

Another dairy bill, one that looks like it may die in the House Ag Committee, is a measure that would abolish the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board.

Consumer groups in Western Pennsylvania reportedly backed the bill, but even they lost some interest after a number of dairies in the area went broke, shut their doors and stopped selling milk.

Another bill in the House Ag Committee would establish a land management commission to operate the state's Prison and other institutional farms. That responsibility is now lodged with the Department of Public Welfare.

Alvin Myers, legislative director for the Pennsylvania Farmers Association, said he is hoping to see a number of measures in motion after the

legislature reconvenes Monday.

Senate Bills 965 and 966 would amend the eminent domain laws to extend the time period in which the original owner could reclaim land at its original purchase price if the land had not been used for purpose for which it had been seized. That period is now three years, the proposed acts would extend the time to 10 years.

House Bill 1606 would exempt family farm corporations from the one-percent annual capital stock franchise tax.

The tax is levied every year on the value of the assets represented by the

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### Lanc. to get new DHIA circuit

LANCASTER — There is a good possibility Lancaster County will get another DHIA circuit in the near future.

According to Lancaster County Dairy Agent Glenn Shirk the new circuit could be in effect by February.

At present the Lancaster County Dairy Herd Improvement Association has about 800 herds on DHIA or owner-sampler test. That represents half of the County's 1600 dairy herds.

The new DHIA circuit could be county-wide. Or there is a possibility one

supervisor may reduce his circuit to a half-time job.

In that case, the new DHIA would probably be based in the east-central part of Lancaster County.

Any farmer interested in adding his herd to the DHIA program should get in touch with Shirk or a local DHIA director.

Shirk also reminded farmers the state DHIA now has a new somatic cell machine.

There is room for about 100 new patrons for the machine so it is urgent farmers who are interested in getting on the somatic cell program

contact the County Agent soon to sign up.

The somatic cell program is one of the best ways available to monitor udder health in a herd.

Starting with the next Lancaster County DHIA report in LANCASTER FARMING Glenn Shirk will write a dairy column for farmer readers.

The column will accompany the Lancaster monthly DHIA report and will deal with topics of interest to dairymen both in Lancaster County and throughout the newspaper's circulation area.

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