

# Lancaster Farming

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## Lancaster County establishes Agricultural Preserve Board

**BY CURTHALER**  
LANCASTER — The Lancaster County Commissioners Wednesday passed unanimously a measure establishing a County Agricultural Preserve Board.

The action means a voluntary deed restriction program can begin in several townships almost immediately. Such a program could preserve as many as 54,839 acres of farmland on 877 farms in eight Lancaster County townships.

The Board is an advisory body whose major role will

be the establishment and administration of a voluntary deed restriction program. Under the current proposal, deed restrictions may be reviewed after 25 years or in case of extreme hardship.

The nine member Agricultural Preserve Board consists of representatives of the farm community, the financial world, developers, and an ex officio member from the county commissioners.

See story on page A 20 for names and backgrounds on the appointees.

Board members will serve

four year terms. To allow staggered terms, two members each were appointed to one, two, three and four year terms.

County Commissioner James E. Huber will hold the ex officio spot.

County Commissioner Jean Mowery objected to the short notice given her as to which members would serve which terms.

But she added that the appointment of the board had been delayed long

enough and proceeded to second the motion to nominate the Board members.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Board will hold its first meeting this Wed-

nesday, April 9, on the fifth floor of the new County Courthouse Building at 50 N. Duke Street in Lancaster.

The meeting, open to the public, should begin at 10:30 a.m., or right after the (Turn to Page A21)

### Producers despair at bottomless market

## Hog prices drop to \$29

**BY SHEILA MILLER**  
LANCASTER — Hogmen watched in despair for the past four week's as their hog prices took a nose-dive

toward the bottom.

According to Lloyd Hoover, hog salesman for Dunlap's at the Lancaster Stockyards, the prices dropped about \$3 to \$3.50 from the beginning of last week to Saturday. This was only a small part of the \$7 to \$9 drop that has knocked the legs out from under the hog market in the past three to four weeks.

Hogmen who saw a glimmer of hope in this week's prices should not get too ecstatic. Monday's market, said Hoover, showed a slight and very temporary increase, with the market 50 cents to 75 cents higher.

This little spurt was the result of the severe weather conditions in the West which meant fewer hogs were going to market. There was more interest in the ones that did make it to the auction block from the buyers at the sales, Hoover said.

Why the slump in hog prices? Hoover said he feels it is the result of over supply and over production by hog producers.

"Consumers haven't been buying much pork. They're walking around worrying about the economy and giving themselves stomach ulcers—if they don't eat, they won't be buying pork," he said.

Even with the drop in prices, Hoover said hog producers are still sending

their animals to market which is not helping the prices. "I guess they need the money to pay their taxes this time of year, and pay the Christmas bills that are coming due."

Flooding the market with hogs to help pay the bills is adding to the bottle-neck market that the hog producers find themselves in. Hoover pointed out the national slaughter is running at capacity with 375,000 hogs

per day. "Last year we thought we were at top capacity with 360 thousand," he added.

Louis Moore, a Penn State economist, referred to the March 20th Pig Crop Report put out by USDA when he tried to explain the current market trends.

"The March report indicates the December through February percent sows farrowing were up (Turn to Page A32)

## The sad saga of Lehigh stock

**BY VIVIAN PAUL**  
ALLENTOWN — In 1970 Lehigh Valley Cooperative Farmers preferred stock was as good as gold, maybe even a bit better than gold.

The dairy was in a solid financial position and the preferred stock was a vigorous commodity. It was worth \$10.6 million.

In 1955 it had been valued at \$1.5 million; in 1960 at \$3.5 million; and in 1965 at \$5.6 million. It was returning six percent to investors at a time when banks were paying three to four percent. It was even accepted by local dealers as payment for farm machinery.

In short, it was a solid investment.

In 1974 the Co-op stopped

paying dividends and the value of the stock plummeted.

This month the 4000 preferred shareholders will learn whether they will receive even a fraction of their investment as current Lehigh shippers vote on the sale and liquidation of Lehigh Valley Cooperative Farmers.

Some of the stockholders are disinterested business people, some are schools, some are churches. But many are part of the agricultural community and, more specifically part of the Lehigh family.

Prior to 1974, all Lehigh shippers participated in a retain program. Royce (Turn to Page A36)

### Seller-buyer cooperation needed

## It's a frustrating time to buy a farm

**BY DICK ANGLESTEIN**  
LITITZ — Farming and

frustration seem to go hand in hand.

The weather, rising production costs coupled with falling markets and temperamental machinery are just some of the perplexing problems which have become all too commonplace as a new decade in agriculture begins.

But now a new factor of frustration has been injected into the complicated formula of running a farm business.

Just ask anyone who has experienced trying to buy a farm in recent months, particularly a young far-

ming couple wanting to get started.

Farm real estate representatives pretty much tell the same general story:

There are plenty of farms available.

Likewise, there are plenty of potential customers looking to buy, both the younger seeking their first farm and the older looking to expand their operation.

The big obstacle being encountered by many of these eager buyers centers on the problems and frustrations of obtaining financing.

One member of the farm real estate community put it bluntly and rather harshly, but it illustrates the depth of frustration being experienced:

"It seems like they're trying to see just how difficult they can make it to buy a farm," he said.

In any event in the present era of tight money policies being exerted from the federal level down, mortgage funds have dried up faster and more deeply than a mid-summer drought.

(Turn to Page A33)



First Lady Ginny Thornburgh, right, receives a Ukrainian egg from Pennsylvania Egg Promotion Specialist, Vicky Wass. Looking on are PDA Secretary Penrose Hallowell and Eggatha.

## Airport zoning leaves Lebanon farmers up in air

**BY SHEILA MILLER**  
CAMPBELLTOWN — "If a farmer wants to expand his farm, he has to buy more land. If a man wants to expand an airport, he should have to buy more land too," commented Joe Eckenrode, a South Londonderry Township farmer.

His statement was made Wednesday evening at a special hearing called by the Township Board of Super-

visors. The meeting was held in order to get public opinions on a petition by a local airport to amend the zoning regulations.

Charles and Ada Reigle, owners of a private airport located just south of Palmyra, Lebanon County, filed a petition last Fall with the township and county to revise the 1975 zoning of South Londonderry Township.

According to the Reigles, when the township was zoned, the airport was ignored. By a 1972 State law, the airport should have been zoned AP-1 rather than (Turn to Page A30)

### In this issue

SECTION A: Editorials, 10; Solanco Young Farmers, 16; Franklin Guernsey awards, 17; Berks horse expo, 26; Incredible Easter eggs, 34.

SECTION B: Chester-Delaware Farmers' Association, 2; Tulpehocken FFA, 4; Lebanon 4-H, 5.

SECTION C: Homestead notes, 2; Joyce Bupp's column, 9; Oregon Dairy expands, 16; Chester DHIA, 19; Lancaster DHIA, 29; Dairy Pipeline, 32; Grassland FFA, 41; Pequea FFA, 42; Garden Spot FFA, 44.

SECTION D: North Lebanon FFA, 2; Restricted chemicals, 4; Adams DHIA, 10; Montgomery DHIA, 11; The Milk Check, 15; Farm Talk, 18; Dauphin 4-H, 20; Blair DHIA, 22.

