

# Lancaster Farming

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York County Dairyman E. Wayne Beshore, left, welcomed U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland on his first official visit to Central Pennsylvania.

## Ag Secty. Bergland tours area farms

**BY JOYCE BUPP**  
Staff Correspondent  
**NEW CUMBERLAND** — U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland, on a pre-primary swing through the farmlands of Pennsylvania Thursday and Friday, made no pretense of why he was here.

"The interest of Pennsylvania's dairy industry and the re-election of President Carter are the reasons I'm here," Bergland told farmers and newsmen during his stop at York County's E. Wayne Beshore farm on Old York Road, New Cumberland.

Following the meeting at Beshore's, Bergland met over lunch with farmers and representatives of the state's farm organizations.

He then headed to Columbia County to the father-son dairy operation of Chris and Dennis Wolf. From there he went to State College to meet with Penn State Ag College Dean James Beattie in the evening.

Western Pennsylvania was on the Friday schedule.

with stops at the farm of State Senator Patrick Stapleton, Representative Paul Yahner's vegetable operation, and the Westmoreland County dairy setup of Boyd Wolf.

Bergland noted the importance of the state's milk production industry, second largest business in Pennsylvania, and said he was especially pleased to be on the Beshore dairy farm.

"The dairy industry needs to be assured and reassured," he told a heavily milk-oriented audience of 125 gathered outside the Beshore stall barn.

But Bergland hedged on the industry's most pressing threat, the Community Nutrition Institute's proposal to hold hearings on allowing the reconstitution of powdered milk for fluid sales.

Acknowledging that over 8000 letters against the proposal have poured into USDA, most from the nation's dairy farmers, Bergland promised to try to announce a decision on the issue by the end of April.

"We have no intention of wrecking or eroding the effectiveness of the federal milk marketing order structure," he assured farmers each time the question was raised.

But the issue ranking most farmers was the mushrooming cost of money for production.

One Beshore neighbor, grain producer Geary Huntsberger, Etters, quizzed the Secretary on assistance for some 200,000 large farmers now in trouble due to increased interest rates.

Terming them "the fair-haired boys who balance this nation's trade deficit,"

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## Packers and farmers beef about market

**BY SHEILA MILLER**  
**NEW HOLLAND** — It was standing room only for some of the nearly 500 farmers, beef feeders, butchers, and meat packers that crowded into the New Holland Sales Stable on Wednesday evening.

What created this great interest on an evening when there was no scheduled sale? Beef—and information on

raising and marketing the four-legged Porterhouses.

Abram Diffenbach, president and manager of the sales stables, sponsored the meeting. He said the purpose of the get-together was to meet the challenges of the '80s and to develop an atmosphere of mutual trust between farmers and packers.

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**BY CURT HARLER**

**LANCASTER** — Producers of both white and brown eggs are in for another six months of lean times before there is any solid market upturn.

In fact, a panel of experts at the North Atlantic Egg Marketing Association meeting held in Lancaster Thursday, agreed that any price strength between now and the last three months of 1980 could be bad news for the egg industry.

Among the highlights of the meeting was a specific monthly price prediction for the coming year by NEMA Economist Cary Bradley.

NEMA President Allen Wenger, Rheems, said while the white egg market is dismal, producers in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware are in good

## Pseudorabies spreads into Southeastern Pa.

**BY DICK ANGLESTEIN**  
**LANCASTER** — Pseudorabies, an increasingly serious disease problem in western hog-producing states the past few years, has arrived in Pennsylvania.

Three cases of the highly contagious disease have been confirmed in Southeastern Pennsylvania, according to Dr. John W. Cable, Chief, Swine Health Division, Bureau of Animal Industry, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

The pseudorabies-infected herds which have been quarantined include:

— A feeder pig operation in the southeastern corner of Dauphin County.

— A hog breeding operation in the East Earl area of Lancaster County.

— Another feeder pig operation in the Myerstown area of Lebanon County.

In addition to these three herds, the state quarantine has been extended to nine other hog operations which

received animals in recent months from the Lancaster County breeder. Among areas involved in these additional quarantines are the Manheim and Ephrata areas of Lancaster County, Fleetwood, Berks County; Phoenixville, Chester County; and Montgomery County.

The disease is very contagious and can be transmitted quickly to other animals, such as cattle, sheep, dogs, cats, rodents and even some wild animals.

In the Lebanon County infection, five heifers which were running with the pigs were lost very quickly within a 12 to 72-hour period, Dr. Cable said.

A number of young pigs, reportedly about 200, died in the Lancaster County breeding operation.

Also, some cats, which had eaten tissue of the dead animals, died within a 24 to 48-hour period, Dr. Cable added.

More than 100 feeders and

breeders were told of the pseudorabies outbreaks at a special meeting on swine health problems Wednesday night at the Farm and Home Center.

Dr. Larry Hutchinson, Penn State veterinarian, cited the three cases and a brief discussion of pseudorabies was given by Dr. Neil Becker, veterinarian from the University of Florida.

"In a county like this where you have wall-to-wall hogs, this could get going and be a real problem," Dr. Becker said.

He particularly stressed the possibility of spread of the disease through stray dogs and cats.

Dr. Becker said the best measures to follow are herd testing, absolute isolation of sick pigs to control the spread and avoid outside animal exposure, such as dogs and cats.

Young affected pigs can be

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## VVND: poultry precautions

**HARRISBURG** — A statewide alert concerning Exotic Newcastle disease, VVND, is being continued by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Three cases of VVND, one in Camp Hill, Pa., have been diagnosed in pet birds, yellow-naped Amazon parrots. The other two cases have been confirmed in

Alexandria, Va., and Norco, Calif.

Thus far, ten pet shops in six different Pennsylvania locations are under quarantine in efforts by a joint state-federal task force to prevent additional exposure.

Poultrymen are advised to take the following

precautionary steps to protect their flocks.

Don't keep caged pet birds on poultry farms and make certain employees don't have such birds as pets.

A strict program is needed to keep stray poultry or birds, dogs, cats, rats, mice and other vermin off poultry premises.

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### Near term outlook bleak

## Fourth quarter egg upturn seen

position to recover late in the year.

Although expansion in this immediate area has been blamed by poultrymen across the nation for increased output and the depressed market, Wenger said there are good reasons why expansion took place where and when it did.

He pointed out it used to cost two cents per dozen to

ship eggs up from the South where today the price is seven to eight cents.

But, Wenger said, there needs to be a transition period when displaced eggs find homes and the less efficient producers are shaken out.

John Ricca, the vice president of NEMA, said the brown egg market is as bad as the white. He has 500,000

layers at home in Massachusetts.

Ricca said many Maine poultry buildings today are empty and never will come back to production.

He pointed out the upswing in fowl sales but added that Campbell's Soup, purchaser of over half of the country's spent fowl, is said to have frozen storages with four times as many pounds of chicken as last year.

He noted that prices in New England for the first quarter last year averaged about 71 cents per dozen. This year the average is 62 to 63 cents. And, he added, costs are up about six cents per dozen.

So, the overall spread farmers need to make up is 14 cents in one year's time.

Cary Bradley's price summary showed little hope

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