

# Lancaster Farming

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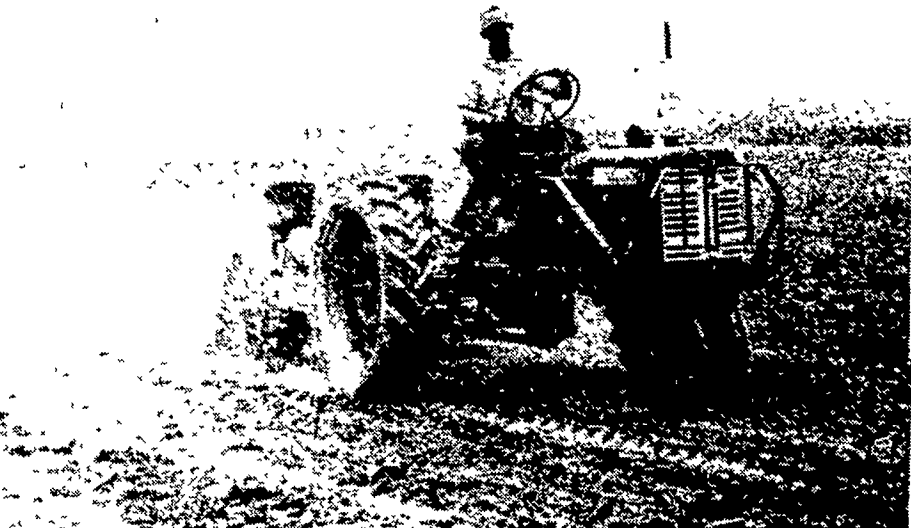
Lancaster Farming, Saturday, May 10, 1980

\$7.00 Per Year

## Soil Stewardship Week, May 11-18

"To man time is given like a piece of land... entrusted to him for faithful tilling; A space in which to strive incessantly, achieve self-realization, move onward and upward..."

Thomas Mann



### Legislative roundup

## Two dairy issues fly through Senate

**BY CURT HARLER**  
HARRISBURG — It was a busy week for dairy business on Capitol Hill as the Senate passed unanimously its Milk Security Fund legislation.

And senators waited until the final possible day to confirm the latest nomination to the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board.

In addition, work continued in both the Senate and House on other important farm legislation.

The Senate voted Wednesday afternoon 49 to 0 to approve SB 1287, the Milk Security Fund.

Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Patrick Stapleton had said he would entertain no amendments to SB 1287. There were none.

Stapleton's reaction came not as a statement, just a big smile.

Leonard Zemaitis, watching the Hill for Pennsylvania Farmers Union said his group is giving the milk security fund its greatest priority.

"We back SB 1287 as it is written," Zemaitis said. "We fear any attempt to amend it later will scuttle the bill."

"It would confuse non-

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## Dairy month's coming

LITITZ — This year Lancaster Farming again is planning to celebrate June Dairy Month with the broadest and most complete dairy coverage in the East.

We are extending a special invitation to dairy groups, DHAs, and other producer organizations, to submit articles and news on dairying for our dairy issue.

In addition, we'll be featuring a month-long series of dairy recipes in our Home on the Range pages in Section C. It's certain to be the state's largest and most fantastic collection of tasty dairy ideas, from milkshakes to cheese dishes.

We'll have a special dairy month gift as a token of our appreciation to all those who submit recipes used on our dairy pages.

To be sure your favorite group, firm, or club activities can be included in our June 7 Dairy Month special, please submit all news by June 3.

Paid advertising material is due by Friday, May 30.

Call us at 717/394-3047 or 717/626-1164. Or, write Lancaster Farming, Box 366, Lititz PA 17543 and join in a milk toast to the state's largest and most dynamic industry: dairying.

## Welfare dumps farms in PDA's lap

BY SHEILA MILLER

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture became the proud new owner of ten Welfare farms on Wednesday.

Governor Dick Thornburgh signed the executive order transferring the farms lock-stock-and-barrel to PDA through an inter-department agreement.

Before PDA realizes the over 10,000 acres of land, plus the buildings, livestock and equipment, the transfer will go through the state's General Services Department for a paperwork review.

Jim Wiggins, the press secretary for the Department of Public Welfare said the department is committed to seeing the land leased to private farmers, and that they wanted out of the farming business.

This fact was made known by Welfare Secretary Helen O'Bannon on March 3, 1980, when she announced her department was going ahead with a plan to phase out its institutional farming programs.

On March 14, furlough notices were sent to 120 full-time state employees who operated the farms associated with the 10 state hospitals or mental retardation centers.

According to Kirk Wilson, the assistant press secretary at the Governor's office, these 120 employees are now either placed in positions in either Welfare or PDA, or they are attempting to place them somewhere within the state government. He said that 57 employees have stayed with Welfare, and 46 have accepted PDA positions, leaving only 17 to be placed.

In the Governor's order, it was announced that the state is planning to phase out of farming altogether. The ten farms that are now under the wing of PDA will be gradually and continually turned over to the private sector, but a deadline for completing this transition has been set for June 30, 1981.

The order goes one step further and says the leasing of the land and buildings will be done giving preference to people who are just getting started in farming. This should help them over the financial hurdle of buying a farm.

What will happen with the farms from now until next June? Wilson stated PDA will be in charge of maintaining the farms and get-

ting them ready to lease next year. "They'll look at the present farming operations and put on the touches needed for leasing," he said.

This time period, he added, will give PDA the chance to make an efficient transition from government operations on the institutional farms to private farmers running them.

This leasing plan is giving some people butterflies in their stomachs.

The Pennsylvania State Grange has been the foremost supporter of keeping the institutional farms in PDA, but said Dave Weinstock, the farms are more valuable as working farms than in leasable land.

The PDA plan for leasing involves only the land and

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## Tobacco seedbed sprayings begin

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN  
LANDISVILLE

Spraying of tobacco seedbeds to protect against blue mold moved into high gear in Lancaster County this week.

The seedbed spraying program should begin when the plants reach the size of a dime and continue through the completion of transplanting, according to John O. Yocum, agronomist and tobacco researcher at Penn State's Southeast Field Research Lab, Landisville.

"The fungicide spray should be applied every five days to a week," Yocum said.

"In the event of rainy weather in which the protectant is washed off, the

application may need to be increased to every three days."

The recommended spray for seedbeds is a fungicide containing ferbam.

Blue mold fungus disease already has been found in seedbeds in Tennessee, Kentucky and the Carolinas. Also, it has been found in fields in Florida and Georgia.

"If a bed problem moves into Virginia or Maryland, Lancaster County growers should make a particular effort to protect their seedbeds," Yocum said.

"If the blue mold gets that far north, it could easily blow into here."

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## FFA contests held through area

MANHEIM — Jay Garber, R3 Elizabethtown, walked away with top place honors in the county FFA agronomy judging competition held Wednesday at Manheim Central School.

From hay samples, weed samples, photos and various other displays, the students classified and placed the categories.

The agronomy competition was only one of many area FFA competitions taking place recently. In addition, there were: dairy products judging competition, see page C28; ag mechanics competition, see page D14; land judging competitions in both Lancaster and Lebanon counties, see pages A26 and A32, respectively.

Approximately 32 students from area schools par-

ticipated in the afternoon agronomy judging. Also placing in the competition were: 2. Barry Geib, Manheim Central; 3. Glenn Hartz, Grassland Chapter; 4. Mark Weber, Grassland; 5. Les Kreider, Elizabethtown.

Final rap up on all the competitions will be held at

Penn State Wednesday, June 11.

While not all of the county schools participate in each competition, the county-wide forum gives the students a chance to pit their minds against those from other schools. A healthy spirit of

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