

# Lancaster Farming

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## Preferred stockholder group opposes Lehigh reorganization

BY VIVIAN PAUL  
Staff Correspondent

ALLENTOWN — A group of preferred stockholders of the Lehigh Valley Cooperative Farmers has formed in opposition to the reorganization plan approved by coop members last month.

The group, called Stockholders Protective Committee, says it plans to file suit against officers and directors of the dairy to stop the plan which would leave them with 15% of the face value of the stock they own.

The committee was organized by Harold Snyder, of Perkaspie, and Willard Roth, of Coopersburg, both of whom are preferred stockholders.

The two men placed an advertisement in the business section of the Allentown Morning Call last week seeking to locate other preferred stockholders. Snyder said dairy officials declined to provide the committee with a list of stockholders.

They have retained Irving Coleman, a corporate at-

torney in Allentown, and the Philadelphia law firm of Blank, Rome, Comisky, McCauley, well-known securities specialists.

The reorganization plan was approved by a vote of 455 to 82 at Lehigh's annual meeting April 25 in Lancaster. Only holders of common stock were eligible to vote.

The proposal involves the dissolution of Lehigh Valley Cooperative Farmers and the sale of its assets to a new organization, Atlantic Processing, Inc., and the establishment of a second business, Lehigh Valley

Farmers, which would be strictly a bargaining coop.

Atlantic Processing will take over the 47-year old dairy by assuming its \$20 million debt and paying \$1.8 million in cash. That amount would be distributed to preferred stockholders. Common stockholders would receive nothing.

Book value of the preferred stock is listed at \$12 million. Additionally the dairy is \$3.5 million in arrears in dividend payments to preferred stockholders.

"Why should shareholders accept \$1.8 million for \$12 million?" (Turn to Page A29)

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A tornado blew an entire roof section from the Chambersburg Livestock Barn (shown in foreground) on Monday evening. In the background is the American Can Company which also received heavy roof damage.

## Tornado rips roof off livestock sales barn

CHAMBERSBURG — Strong gusts of wind and a brief yet intense rainfall, considered by many area residents and officials as a tornado, struck the communities of Chambersburg and Fayetteville here in

Franklin County leaving behind severely damaged businesses, homes, cars, trees and a church.

The storm that hit at approximately 6:00 p.m. on Monday evening, May 12, tore an entire portion of roof off the Chambersburg Livestock Sales, Inc. building on Wayne Avenue, on the southern side of Chambersburg. The winds also ripped sections of stairs and power lines away from the building.

Tin from the livestock barn, and rafters and tin from the lumber yard next door, wrapped around power lines and tore them completely down along a

business section of Wayne Avenue.

Several motorists were trapped in cars and many people were trapped inside a restaurant as the live electric wires came crashing down around them.

Large portions of debris from the livestock barn, the lumber yard and the American Can Company (also located on Wayne Ave.) were found scattered around in a large corn field across from these buildings. Portions of roof and rafters were also found in the K-Mart Plaza parking lots, some 350 yds. away.

According to William

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## Is time killing new ag fair?

BY PAT KAUFFMAN

LITITZ — With only 45 months remaining before the proposed date, Secretary of Agriculture, Penrose Hallowell said the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is still considering the possibility of an ag fair to be held at the Keystone Race Track, but time is running short, and hopes of a decent showing this fall are growing slimmer with the hour.

The PDA has proposed a state-wide ag fair to be held at the Keystone Race Track facility near Bensalem, a suburb of Philadelphia. The fair, according to Hallowell,

would be held in the Fall, possibly late September or early October. Hallowell said the main thrust of the fair would be a farm/city approach with agricultural exhibitions of livestock and produce to familiarize urbanites with Pennsylvania commodities and help provide a market for state produce.

Hallowell stated that the department is interested in the Keystone site because it would be offered free of charge, and the fair would probably be scheduled to run 2-4 days, some of which races would also be run.

James Sumner, Bureau of

Markets, stated that in order to draw the urban crowd, competitions would probably be scheduled, possibly a tractor or horse pulling contest. Initially, Sumner said the effort would include representative samples of livestock exhibitions. And with time, he stated, the show would aim to be all-inclusive.

Funding options announced include funds from the Farm Show, state fair funding, an alternative that would require a three year delay, or money from the state legislature.

Hallowell noted that in the first year of the fair, limited

space would be available under tent. A large exhibit of cattle would run into difficulties of tent space and water supply. The fair is, Hallowell noted however, still only in the preplanning stage. The fund should be self-supporting, Hallowell noted and the time element is to be watched closely. While there is still time to plan something for this fall, he said that further plans will depend on whether or not there is time to do a respectable job. Hallowell said the department has talked to farm groups including Bucks County Farmers' Association and has consulted with Bucks County Commissioners.

The fair would basically have use of the lawn, he said, and would share parking facilities with the race track. He noted that the issue of manpower to plan and operate a fair has not been resolved. He said the department has a modest amount of staff.

Les Houck, New Holland, executive director of the PA tractor pullers said that to attract participants in the modified stock and super stock competitions there would have to be sizeable premiums available. He

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## Pseudorabies in 9 herds

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN  
LANCASTER

— Pseudorabies is now confirmed in nine swine herds across a four-county area in southeastern Pennsylvania as the state's investigation continues to fan out to attempt to find the original source of the disease.

The nine infected herds, in which lab tests have confirmed existence of the disease, include six in Lancaster County and one each in Dauphin, Lebanon and Berks counties.

The six Lancaster County herds are concentrated in the northern part of the county, primarily the Ephrata area, according to Dr. John W. Cable, Chief of the Swine Health Division of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Presently, a total of 11 herds are under quarantine, including the nine infected herds. Seven other herds have been released from quarantine, after negative test results were reported from animals that had been

exposed to the infected herds.

Additional precautionary quarantines are expected to be issued, according to Dr. Cable, pending the results of laboratory testing.

"Our investigation still hasn't turned up any definite information concerning the original source of the disease," Dr. Cable said.

"We don't have any common link related to all of the infected herds."

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## Berks farmers confront Congressman on FmHA troubles

BY LAUREL SCHAEFFER  
Staff Correspondent

READING — Seeking solutions to problems many local farmers are having in getting financial aid from the Farmer's Home Administration, and the apparent lack of concern of the local and state administrators within FmHA, sent the president of the Berks County Farmers' Association, Jack Kooker, along with two representative farm couples, to the office of Congressman Gus Yatron.

The group met on May 10th with Rod Fisher, Congressman Yatron's aide in the Reading office. The

scene was set for the farm representatives to explain their dilemma. They cited their own experiences in seeking funds from the Leesport office of FmHA in their plea to the Congressman for improvement.

Kooker, along with being an officer for the county's PFA, also sits on the three-member board of farmers that review FmHA applications at the local office.

He said he was embarrassed when some applicants for loans called him and reported they had never heard from the FmHA office

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