

# Lancaster Farming

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## Crop count as dry as nation's farms

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

WASHINGTON — Crop reporters trudged their dusty paths through the parched corn and soybean fields of the nation this week and what they counted is reflected in the latest yield figures out of the USDA.

In a nutshell, corn and

bean yields continue their downward slide. Tobacco remains the only bright spot.

In figures released Thursday, here's the current crop report:

Corn — A harvest of 6.53 billion bushels is expected. That's down 16 percent, or about a billion bushels, from

last year's 7.5 billion bushel bin buster.

The current report, based more on actual in-field harvest counts, is down another two percent from August 1.

In Pennsylvania, the corn crop has been hit even harder by the heat and drought. The state crop is estimated at 88,560,000 bushels. That's a drop of 23 percent from last year.

The state average yield is forecast at 72 bushels to the acre. Last year, it was 95 bushels.

Soybeans — The national crop is forecast at 1.83 billion bushels, down 19 percent from last year. Last year's harvest yielded nearly 2.2 billion bushels.

Beans continued their slide from August 1 figures. The current expectation is down another three percent from a month ago.

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## Pequea softens zoning stand

By PAT KAUFFMAN

WILLOW STREET — In a Monday night continuation of last Thursday's zoning hearing in Pequea Township, planning commission officials in this Lancaster County Community made revisions to the proposed agribusiness ordinance which Karl Hess, Vice Chairman of the planning Commission termed "a whole lot softer."

The planning commission has recommended the supervisors adopt the ordinance with the revisions at their September 24 meeting at 7:30 p.m. The Planning Commission asked for and has been granted permission to conduct a survey of farmers in the township to explore the feasibility of setting up an ag district.

In defining a farm, the proposals now call any acreage of 10 or more acres a farm, a concession to James Thomas' attorney for the farmers, plea last Thursday evening. Thomas pointed out that the previously proposed 15 acres

or more definition was the only such in the county.

Setback restrictions now are 500 feet from any residential structure other than those on the farm and 125 feet from any street or right of way.

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## Ag Preserve Board says amend Act 442

BY SHEILA MILLER

LANCASTER — A record crowd turned out for last Friday morning's meeting of the Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board.

According to Tom Johnston, administrator of the County's Conservation District, the fifty or so people in attendance showed the most interest in the Preserve Board proceedings

since its formation earlier this year.

What generated the interest?

For one thing, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell was there to hear first hand what the Lancaster County board had to say about the state's Open Spaces Act of 1968.

Chairman Amos Funk spoke for the board when he said, "We feel we need to



Junior Showmanship winners at Saturday's District VI 4-H Horse Show who qualified for State competition were from left: 1. Sue Steinruck Dauphin County; 2. Dawn Richardson, Adams County and 3. Jessica Shetron, Cumberland County. See page A24 for the story.

## York Fair competition keen

YORK — The York Interstate Fair started last Friday and concludes today with a Pork King cookout in the morning at 11 a.m. York Fair picture coverage begins on page A32.

In early week competition, Troy Ness, Dallastown, showed the Grand Champion Market lamb in Sunday's open competition.

John Eaton exhibited the Grand Champion 4-H Steer while Shane Seidenstricker had the overall grand Champion 4-H Market Lamb.

Lisa Wysocki from York County exhibited the Grand Champion animal, her

Senior Champion Alpine doe, in the York 4-H goat show Friday evening.

Attendance was heavy at Sunday's Junior Polled Hereford and Angus show and the crowds this year through the livestock buildings were heavy. Lots of oohs and aahs accompanied admiring glances at the champion animals.

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*Exclusive interview covers money, credit, apples, mushrooms*

## Ag Secretary Bergland talks farming

BY CURT HARLER

HARRISBURG — U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland stood firm on his decision to maintain a grain reserve, called the ITC's recommendations for mushroom quotas a "delicate matter," and talked about an upcoming campaign to change disaster fund provisions, the farm credit act, and research priorities.

Bergland visited Pennsylvania Wednesday and Thursday to speak at the state ASCS meeting held at Seven Springs, Somerset County, and to confer with the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Co-op.

He took time from his schedule to give a 35 minute exclusive interview for Lancaster Farming's readers and to answer questions of concern to state farmers. Later he held a general press conference.

Here's how our exclusive interview went:

From early reports the 1980 feedgrain crop looks like it will be a bit thin. Do you feel this will underscore the

need for the farmer-held grain reserve you established? Can we look for a building of the reserve?

We installed the grain reserve policy as the first order of business when I first came into the Department. Now it's being discovered and its real value is starting to be appreciated.

We have about a billion bushels of last year's crop in reserve available from farmers. It will be sold when farmers think prices are right.

It is almost sure the feedgrain crop this year will be less than demand. So we certainly will draw into the feed grain reserve.

We have, as a matter of policy, not established any limits on the reserve. We say the reserve should be a matter of supply and demand.

Corn crops depend on whether it rains or does not. Interestingly this year's corn crop will be one of the best.

We tend to think in terms of crop last year

was an aberration. We broke yield records in all five major crops. We may never see another crop like that in our lifetime.

The reserve policy is not to establish any goals for tonnage. Whatever is produced in excess of demand will be put into reserve and we will let the marketplace determine the size of the reserve. It is the growers' choice.

In a year like this when the demand is going to be greater than the crop the growers have the right to sell whenever the time is right.

It will continue as a flexible, adaptable program to accommodate what happens each year. And each year is different.

Recently the International Trade Commission recommended the President place limits on foreign

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