

# Lancaster Farming

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During a ceremony at the Amos Funk Farm Market, Millersville, Governor Dick Thornburgh signed House Bill 1176 changing inheritance tax laws to encourage continued use of farmland for agricultural purposes. Attending the services were: left to right, Rep. Joseph Pitts, Gov. Thornburgh, and Sen. Richard A. Snyder. Back row: Secretary of Agriculture, Penrose Hallowell, Rep. Noah Wenger, Rep. Gibson Armstrong and Amos Funk.

## Governor visits county, signs H.B. 1176

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ  
MILLERSVILLE — "Signing this bill will mark another step forward in the agricultural community to preserving the family farm," Gov. Dick Thornburgh said Wednesday as he signed House Bill 1176 in a ceremony at the farm of Amos Funk, R1 Millersville. This legislation changes

the inheritance tax laws to encourage the continued use of farmland for agricultural purposes. It provides that farmlands and forestlands be taxed at use value rather than the market value for inheritance purposes, thus making it easier for farmers to pass their family farms from one generation to the next without prohibitive

inheritance tax.

"In Pennsylvania, the pressures of urban sprawl, inflation, and taxation have been pushing families off the farm," Thornburgh said. "To reverse this trend, we have enacted a number of farm preservation initiatives."

"Members of family farm operations are often forced to sell their land for development because they cannot afford to pay the inheritance tax," Thornburgh said earlier in the week. "By valuing property for tax purposes at its farming use instead of its usually higher market value, we are making it more feasible financially to continue these family farm operations."

To be eligible under this legislation, land must have been in agricultural use for three years before the owner's death and remain that way for seven years afterward. And, according to the Department of Agriculture, the farmland must be at least ten acres in size or have a yearly anticipated gross income of \$2000 from farming. Forestlands must be at least ten continuous acres in size.

Also participating in the ceremonies were Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell, State

### At Pa. Egg Council

## Feathers ruffled over spent hens

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN  
LANCASTER — Spent hens and specifically how they may be marketed cooperatively in the Commonwealth in the future was a topic of lively discussion at a meeting of the Pennsylvania Egg Council on Wednesday at the Host Corral.

What was listed on the agenda as a discussion of "Improving Spent Hen Marketing" turned into a sometimes lively exchange between PACMA officials of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association, which has been selling the hens through the FACTS marketing affiliate organization in Massachusetts, and the Fowl

Sales Services, American Agricultural Marketing Association, American Farm Bureau Federation.

At the core of current attention apparently is an attempt by the Farm Bureau group to sign up Pennsylvania into its expanding national marketing program for spent hens.

Jim Wolf, Egg Council president, told members following the often cryptic PACMA and Farm Bureau presentations that he personally had been approached to enroll his operation at Stewartstown into the national program.

Other topics covered at the

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### Red Rose annual meeting

## DHIA sees butterfat record set

BY CURT HARLER  
SMOKETOWN — A county record of 771 pounds butterfat established by the 44.6 cows in the Nelson H. Wenger herd was heralded at the annual meeting of the Lancaster County Dairy

Herd Improvement Association held Tuesday afternoon.

The R6 Manheim herd of home-bred Registered Holsteins had a 4.1 percent test on 18,599 pounds milk. Details on Wenger's management program can be found on page B-2.

Top herd for milk was owned by Benue Z. Lapp, R2 New Holland. Lapp's 65 cows produced 20,435 pounds milk on three times a day milking.

The Lapp herd of Registered Holsteins averaged 713 pounds butterfat. Seventeen percent of the herd consists of purchased cows.

Also producing over 20,000 pounds was the Paul H. Martin herd of Registered Holsteins. His 50 milkers made 20,049 pounds milk and finished second in the overall butterfat production list with 734 pounds production.

Martin farms at R1 Ephrata.

In the colored breeds,

several repeat performances were recorded for the top herd average in the Red Rose Association.

Top Ayrshire herd is owned by Harold Shelly, R2 Manheim. His herd of 23 cows produced an average of 15,318 pounds milk and 621 pounds butterfat.

Leading the Brown Swiss records was the herd of Richard G. Wenger, R2 Manheim. His 77 cow herd averaged 13,300 pounds milk and 546 pounds butterfat.

K.D. and Else Linde, R1 Oxford, again had the top Guernsey herd in the County. A record of 13,566 pounds milk and 652 pounds fat put their herd of 66 cows at the top of the Golden Guernsey DHIA list.

Paul H. and Marvin Herr, R1 Holtwood, turned in the best production figures for Jerseys. Their 45 cow herd produced 12,453 pounds milk and 597 pounds fat.

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## Full sisters by Elevation top harvest sale at \$29,000 each

LANCASTER — Two full sisters by Elevation, reported to be the highest record excellent pair ever sold at public sale, topped the Golden Harvest Sale at the Guernsey Pavilion Thursday at \$29,000 each.

Anchor and Hope Elevation Sarah, EX-92, and Anchor and Hope Elevation Sunny, 2E-91, were brought into the ring together and auctioned as a choice or both.

Described as the "New Generation" of the Holstein breed, they were purchased by Weir Stewart, Hillsdale, N.Y. They were consigned by Anchor and Hope Farm, Inc., and Charles McLaughlin, Port Deposit and Taneytown, Md.

As a five-year-old, Sarah has a 305-day projection of 25,700 lbs of milk and 1074 of butterfat Sunny, in 360 days, has a production record as a

six-year-old of 34,700 lbs. of milk and 1439 butterfat at 4.15 test. A third full sister has 927 lbs. of fat in 10 months and is expected to be the third to top the 1,000-lb. mark.

The sisters were All-Ohio Produce of Dam in 1979 and 1980. Sarah is bred to Valiant and Sunny to Chief. Neither has been flushed.

Opening the sale, the sisters' bidding started at \$10,000 and quickly moved to \$21,000. Then more slowly, but still in \$1,000 jumps, bids rose to the top offer of \$29,000.

The sale, attended by a standing-room-only crowd in the pavilion, could have been billed as an "Elevation Event." In all, 23 of his daughters and a son, plus 10 units of semen, went across the auction block.

The largest single consignor in the Golden Harvest Sale and the following

Garden Spot Sale was Floyd M. Nolt, New Holland, with 23 head, 12 cows and 11 heifers.

Altogether, 147 head, including 11 bulls, were listed in the catalog.

Among other top leading sellers in the sales:

Andfar Astronaut Bountiful, VG-87, with a 365-day production record of 15,087

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## Farm Show director resigns

HARRISBURG — Horace Mann was appointed Friday by Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell to serve as acting director of Farm Show in the wake of the resignation of Pennsylvania State Farm Products Show Director, Hugh Coffman.

Coffman resigned from the \$29,600 a year post less than one month before the complex's biggest event of the year, Farm Show. His resignation becomes effective Tuesday.

Mann had previously served as director from 1964-1971. He will serve as temporary replacement for

Coffman.

"This will be a temporary appointment until after Farm Show. A permanent director will be appointed at a later date," Hallowell said.

After serving as Farm Show director since May of 1979, Coffman will assume the position of administrative assistant to Congressman James Coyne of the 8th district, Bucks County.

"Hugh has done an excellent job of reorganizing Farm Show management and promoting many facilities which are available to the public at the Farm

Show complex," Hallowell said.

"His tenure has seen an increase in the usage and value of the complex. While it is a disappointment to lose an administrator like Coffman, I am pleased for him in taking on additional responsibilities as top aide to Congressman Coyne."

Concerning his year and a half as Farm Show director Coffman remarked, "The experience has been enjoyable and unique. My only regret is that I won't be working for Penrose Hallowell anymore."

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