

Lancaster Farming

VOL. 26 No. 21

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, March 21, 1981

\$7.50 Per Year



The Charles family, from right, James, Mr. and Mrs. Ray H. Charles, were honored as Lancaster's Outstanding Conservation Cooperators at Thursday's banquet. Presenting the aerial picture of the Charles farm is Technician Abner Houseknecht.

Economist addresses Eastern Co-op farmers

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ

BLUE BALL — "You're going to make money this year, but you're not going to get rich by a long, long shot," Joe Mathis, economist for the Eastern Milk Producer's Cooperative Assn. told over 40 area farmers who gathered Thursday at the Blue Ball Fire Hall.

"We're looking at a year similar to what we had last year. The milkcheck is not going to go up as the bills come in," he added. "On the average, your prices are not going to go up as much as the cost of production."

Offering the farmers what he termed a "run down on where the cooperative stands at this point," he discussed farm news from Washington as well as production rates of participating farmers.

"As you know, Reagan is in the process of cutting the budget \$48.6 billion. Of this number, \$3.4 billion will be in agriculture. So if things go as projected, almost nine percent of the whole budget cut will come in agriculture," he said.

Two big programs to be cut are the milk price support program and the school lunch and nutrition program according to Mathis.

"They (the administration) are

hoping to cut the school lunch program by as much as \$2.6 billion," he added.

Moving from discussion on Washington to how farmers stand locally, Mathis offered the farmers some comparisons of last year's farm rates, adding that a big problem right now may be handling excess milk due to over production.

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Area Holstein breeders active at MGM Grand Sale in Nevada

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

LANCASTER — Earl C. Stauffer, R1 Ephrata, sold a Holstein calf to J. Mowery Frey, of Willow Street.

But before the 10-month-old calf could make the approximate 20-mile move from Sunny Craft Farm in northern Lancaster County to Fultonway Farm in the southern section, she traveled more than 5200 miles to and from Reno, Nev., and basked in the glamor and

glitter of the resort town that is usually reserved for show business celebrities.

The young heifer was just one of a number of top Holstein breeding stock that moved into and out of Lancaster County herds through the sale ring of the MGM Grand Holstein Sale held earlier this month in Reno.

In all, transactions involving Lancaster County area breeders at the sale held before an audience of

some 2000 in the ballroom of the MGM Grand Hotel, totaled more than \$140,000.

Average sale price for the approximate 100 head that went through the ring topped \$8500.

The MGM Sale is a bit different from the customary county sale you expect to see at New Holland, Vintage or even the Guernsey Sales Pavilion. Held for only the second time on March 6, it is

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Conservation district honors outstanding cooperators

BY CURT HARLER

INTERCOURSE — The Lancaster County Conservation District presented four awards at its annual meeting Thursday night.

In addition, the 205 guests at the 30th annual banquet were told by the man who designed the Mason Dixon Farms methane generator that farms can become energy self-sufficient today.

Roy H. and James Charles Millersville, were cited as the 1980 Outstanding Conservation Cooperators by the District. Award was presented by District Technician Abner J. Houseknecht.

From a farm which admittedly had some bad washing and gully problems in the early 1970s, the Charles operation has grown to a model of conservation practices.

Details of their conservation program begin on page A20.

High Properties' Greenfield Industrial Park was cited as the County's outstanding storm water management program.

Designed in 1973 by Huth Engineers Inc., the East Lampeter Township project essentially was complete by 1975. Although the system looked good on paper, it was not until more recently that it proved its value after several buildings were erected and it still performed according to design.

The most obvious feature of the system is a series of three controlled outlet ponds which provide

storage capacity for excess runoff which otherwise would spill into Stauffer Run.

Raymond G. Herr presented the award to the owners of the industrial park, the design engineers, and the township.

Outstanding service awards were presented to Sonia Shaner and Nancy Burkhart by County Commissioner James E. Huber.

Shaner, a Warwick vo-ag

teacher, was cited for her help with education programs at the county's summer conservation sessions.

Burkhart, the SCS office's friendly phone voice and secretary-treasurer of the District, was honored for her 15 years service to SCS.

Featured speaker John R. Sheaffer, is a native of Lancaster (Turn to Page A30)

Favorable operation reported by Lehigh

BY VIVIAN PAUL

Staff Correspondent

LANCASTER — Lehigh Valley Farmers, holding its first annual meeting since its formation last summer, reported favorable results for its first eight months of operation.

General Manager William Stout told more than 400 producers the Co-op had an operating margin of \$74,000. In addition, Stout said Lehigh Valley Farmers also holds \$675,000 worth of equity in Atlantic Processing, Inc., to which Lehigh sells its milk.

A detailed financial statement is expected within a few weeks when the annual report is released. It was explained that farmers

shipped 333 million pounds of milk during the eight months for which they were paid \$45.5 million.

Both Stout and Board President Alpheus Ruth expressed optimism about the Co-op's early performance and about its future. They said they hope to acquire 300 new shippers before the end of 1981.

The new member drive will coincide with several important improvements to the incentive

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