



The 1981 Turkey Industryman of the Year is Lowell Koch, Tamaqua. Presenting the plaque is last year's winner, Paul Konhaus. With Koch is wife Betty.

Poultry Industrymen

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broilers over the counter at one of the fourteen different farmer market stands located throughout the Philadelphia area. When he wasn't at market (which was only two or three days a week), Mitchell served as a production employee, cutting up chickens to sweeping floors.

In 1950, Mitchell was promoted to the position of market manager and was responsible for those 14 Philadelphia markets; and in 1962, he was appointed sales manager. In 1973, he was appointed vice

president of sales and today he is vice president of sales and marketing for Victor F. Weaver, Inc. Mitchell served as president of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation in 1978.

At his home in Akron, Mitchell serves his community as president of the Borough Council and board member of the Akron Church of the Brethren. He is past president of the Laons Club and a member of the Lancaster Sales and Marketing Club.

Lowell Koch, Tamaqua, was

U.S.-USSR complete grain consultations

LONDON — U.S. Under Secretary of Agriculture Seeley G. Lodwick issued the following statement at the conclusion of the two-day U.S.-USSR grain agreement consultations here on June 9.

"We have just completed a day and a half of consultations with officials of the Soviet Union under the U.S.-USSR agreement. This was the ninth regular session of consultations under the agreement but the first since October 1979. It represents an important first step in normalizing grain trade with the Soviet Union, following President Reagan's action to lift the partial embargo last April 24.

"With respect to additional Soviet purchases for shipment between now and Sept. 30, there was mutual agreement that without further consultations, the Soviet Union could import up to 6 million tons of U.S. grains — 3 million tons wheat and 3 million tons of corn.

"If the Soviets import that full quantity, this will bring their imports of U.S. wheat and corn to 14 million tons in this final year of the five-year agreement. The USSR has already imported 8 million tons — the amount allowable without additional consultations between the two governments.

"Under terms of the five year agreement ending Sept. 30, the Soviet Union was required to buy at least 6 million tons of U.S. grain — half wheat and half corn — in each of the five years. They could buy an additional 2 million tons without further consultations. These amounts were not disturbed by the partial embargo in effect during 1980 and early 1981.

"At the end of the consultations today, both sides agreed to consult with their governments on the

timing and location of early talks to explore a new arrangement for U.S.-USSR trade in grains beyond September 30. In the meantime, the USSR may proceed to purchase, for delivery after September 30, in reasonable quantities on the same basis as other buyers so as not to disrupt markets."

Tommelleo

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Tommelleo, lived under the risk that at any time their large home might be turned into a farm for wayward animals.

"I was always sneaking animals into our house," she said. "Cats, dogs, mice, birds and anything else that walked, crawled and flew. If I could have hidden a pony or calf under my coat I probably would have tried that also."

Fortunately for her family and neighbors, Donna entered Penn State's main campus in the summer of 1973 and majored in Animal Industry. During the next four years she worked summers for two Lawrence County veterinarians and assisted with all types of animals.

"It was a wonderful experience. I was knee-deep in animals and felt like a little kid in a candy store," she laughed.

After graduating in 1977 she accepted a job as assistant herdsmen for a 100-cow Holstein dairy in Salem County, New Jersey. Her responsibilities ranged from milking to field work. She found farm life exciting and extremely rewarding.

"I knew I wanted to spend the rest of my life in the country. Working on that farm helped me gain a lot of self-confidence as well as keeping me in top physical shape, although I think I must have

chosen the 1981 Turkey Industryman of the Year. Koch picked up the turkey business from his father in 1953 after he graduated from Tamaqua High School. He started out big with 1,500 turkeys of his own. By 1970, he was raising 100,000 turkeys and selling them to Godshall's Processing Plant in Birdsboro of which he was part owner.

In 1973, Koch built his own USDA inspected processing plant at the farm designed to handle a capacity of 150,000 pounds of turkey. An on-farm hatchery operates from January through August, hatching out over 10,000 pullets per week. The processing plant handles 3,000 hens or 1,800 tons every day, with a freezing capacity of a half million pounds.

Always an innovator, Koch's operation includes a small retail store and a kitchen to prepare the products for the store as well as develop new products. The product line includes turkey pies and soups all the way to turkey scallops and turkey croquettes.

Koch is active in his community as a director with the Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce, the Walker Township Planning Commission, and the Masonic Lodge. Along with the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation, Koch is a member of the National Turkey Federation and the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association. He was selected as a Master Farmer in 1979.

Assisting him with the turkey business are wife Betty and children Barbara, Beth, and Dwayne.

used a case of Ben-Gay the first few weeks," she added.

She returned to Penn State in November of 1979 and, while working on a Dairy Production degree, she became interested in journalism and combined the two.

"I enjoy talking about farming and I found that journalism offered a creative outlet. This job with Lancaster Farming will allow me to do just that — with a special focus on the dairy industry," she said.

While at Penn State, Donna was a staff writer for the University's Agriculture Communications Department but moonlighted as a milker for Penn State's dairy center and worked in a fast-food Mexican restaurant. She also was active in PACT (People and Animals Coming Together), a unique Centre County pet-placement organization which provides pets for senior citizens.

In addition to talking and writing about dairying, Donna enjoys traveling, water sking, horseback riding, cooking, hunting and softball.

"Driving through Lancaster County in the past was always enjoyable and now that I'm finally living here I can't wait to become more familiar with its people, places and especially its farms," she concludes.



Over 200 poultry producers and allied industry people gathered at the Host Farm, Lancaster on Thursday evening to honor the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation's Industryman of the Year.



Accepting the 1981 Broiler Industryman of the Year is Mel Mitchell, Akron, center, and wife Dorothy. The award was presented Thursday evening during the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation's Annual Banquet by last year's broiler man, Earl Gingrich, right.

Blue mold

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The return of wet weather to Florida has prompted new reports from that area.

"The blue mold seen thus far in the county was also sporulating," Yocum said.

This means that there could be airborne spread of the fungus, especially if weather conditions are conducive to its distribution and development.

"Tobacco growers who are not finished transplanting are urged to use Rudomil in their fields," according to Arnold Lueck, county extension agent.

"With reports of blue mold sporulating, it is important that protection be provided in the fields."

Another weather-related problem, which has been reported in wheat fields, are the twin diseases of powdery mildew and scab.

The mildew resembles a musty mist hanging over a field and can remain undetected by growers thinking it's a haze.

Scab in wheat causes all or part of the head to turn white or a lighter color. Close examination shows an orange or reddish growth on the head.

Concerning the mildew, some farmers may be faced now with the decision of whether to chop the wheat for silo-filling or wait out the mildew and hope it is checked by drier weather. The mildew is not toxic and the wheat can be put in the silo.

Scab was a significant problem in wheat two years ago. Both the mildew and scab can cut significantly into yields and test weights.

Penn State research into the problems are concentrating on possible fungicides, breeding of resistant varieties and seed protectants.

The black cutworm problem in corn involved crops in the Gap and

Narvon areas and even down into Chester County.

One farmer reported it was the worst problem he had in corn in 30 years. The corn, about 14 inches high, had been chewed off and some 100 acres had to be replanted on the one farm alone. At least two other growers also had to put in new crops.

Similar problems were reported in central and western parts of the state and also in Maryland.

The rainy, damp weather also was causing concern about blight among tomato and potato growers. Spraying was being done, but no serious blight reports have been received.

Photos

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wild to visualize and capture dairy animals in comic or cute circumstances.

As long as the photos have been taken by an amateur photographer and have dairy animals in them, they're eligible for competition.

Three cash awards will be made in each of the categories. These include \$50 for first, \$30 for second and \$20 for honorable mention.

Both black and white and color photos are eligible. They should be at least snapshot size. Only photo prints will be judged; no transparencies or slides.

If you want your photo returned, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, along with a Lancaster Farming mailing label.

Be sure to include your name, address and telephone number with each entry so that we can contact you in case one of your photos turns out to be a winner.

But to be a winner, you must enter. And this is your last chance. Send all entries to:

DAIRY MONTH
PHOTO CONTEST
Lancaster Farming
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