

# Lancaster Farming

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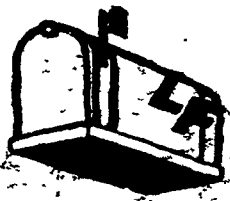
Lancaster Farming, Saturday, October 24, 1981

\$7.50 Per Year



Lebanon's Beth Schaeffer was one of the nearly 1,000 riders who compete for top prizes during one of Pennsylvania's most prestigious horse shows, the Penn National, held at the Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. The show climaxes today with the Grand Prix jumping competition. See story on local exhibitors, page A32.

Inside  
This  
Week's...



On your mark, get set...read how local Guernsey breeders approach the starting line of the last dairy show of the season. See story on page...A26.

The Lancaster County Farmer's Association tells agriculture's story in a week-long "farm in the malls" at Park City on...B24.

York's conservation tour features such highlights as saws, sheep, grapes, and good management practices. Read about it on...D28.

## Heidelberg Twp. farmers oppose ag zoning

BY SHEILA MILLER

GERMANSVILLE — It was a full house at the Germansville Fire Hall on Monday evening as Lehigh County's Heidelberg Township planning committee convened a special hearing to review its proposed zoning ordinance with the public.

In the audience were farmers and townspeople who had come out to voice their opposition to the draft ordinance which would place the greater majority of the township's 15,835-acre area within agricultural zones.

According to the township solicitor, the zoning ordinance would strive to implement the goals of the township's comprehensive plan adopted in March 1980 and would replace the township's 1971 ordinance:

- ✓ Maintain the rural characteristics of the Township, including its open space, predominance of agricultural land uses, and low density, small scale development;

- ✓ Encourage farming as a way of life within the Township and as a viable economic activity of both the Township and Lehigh County. Land use controls should not make agricultural and rural uses subordinate to urban uses;

- ✓ Do not encourage residential, commercial, and industrial development. Heidelberg Township has few of the conditions necessary for urban development and is best suited for rural uses, agriculture and open space;

- ✓ Additional industrial and commercial development that may be needed to meet community needs should occur in an existing village at a scale appropriate for a rural community; and

- ✓ Restrict residential, commercial, and industrial development from steep slopes, flood plains, and high water table areas.

The adoption of the new zoning ordinance is the last step for the

township planning committee which was formed in June, 1979 to study the need to preserve farmland in its community. The committee previously produced the supplement to the comprehensive plan and a new subdivision ordinance, adopted in November 1980.

Township officer Rodney Schlauch pointed out there has been a 76 percent population growth in Heidelberg Township. He stressed that continued growth would adversely affect the agricultural community which is the major industry in the township.

According to the planning committee, the proposed ordinance better protects the agricultural character of the area by: limiting the number of non-farm dwellings permitted in the Agricultural District; requiring any development in that district to be confined to less productive soils (Classes IV-VIII), such as rocky land, swamps, slopes exceeding 15 percent; and areas with unsuitable size or shape for farming; and placing a one-acre maximum on residential lot sizes.

Specifically, within the Agricultural District, permitted uses would include: agriculture, raising of farm animals; local agricultural industries; farm related dwellings; and other single family dwellings with minimum lot sizes of 30,000 square feet.

A farm can be subdivided by the following criteria: no more than one lot plus 10 percent of the farm's acreage can be used for non-farm related residences.

Other zoning areas include:

Blue Mountain District - land reaching from the base of the Blue Mountain to the township boundary at the top of the slope. Permitted uses include single family detached dwellings; raising farm animals and agriculture; and certain recreation and community facility uses. Minimum lot size is three acres.

Rural Residential - an enlargement of the present Heidelberg Heights development.

(Turn to Page A27)

### Columns

Editorials, A10; Now is the time, A10; Ladies, have you heard? B13; Joyce Bupp's column, B8; Ida's Notebook, B11; Farming's Futures, B23; That's a good question, B22; Farm Talk, D4.

### Home and Youth

Homestead Notes, B2; Home on the Range, B6; FWS news, B10; Kid's Korner, B12; FFA news, B17; Pumpkin people, B18; Museum courses, B23; Cumberland Home Economist, B16; state Guernsey queen, B12; Fire destroys, B30; Berks County, B28; York Countians study old machines, D7.

Wollaston Jerseys, D2; Berks DHIA, D13; Perry DHIA, D16; York DHIA, D18; Adams DHIA, D23; Schuylkill DHIA, D25; Somerset DHIA, D26.

## House approves Farm Bill; amends dairy price support

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO

WASHINGTON, D.C. — After more than three weeks of discussion, the House of Representatives voted 192 to 160, Thursday night, to approve its version of the 1981 Farm Bill.

However, major differences between the House and Senate versions move the bill to a conference committee for further discussion, said George Palmer, staff director of the livestock, dairy and poultry agriculture subcommittee. Senior members of the House and Senate ag committees comprise the conference committee.

The house voted 400 to 14, last week, in favor of an amended dairy

price support provision. Introduced by Rep. Berkley Bedell (D-Iowa), the amendment fixes the support level at \$13.10 per hundredweight but provides for a minimum support of 72.5 percent of parity for 1983; a minimum support of 70 percent parity for 1984 and 1985 unless CCC purchases of surplus dairy goods are less than 3.5 billion pounds. In that case, the minimum support would be 75 percent.

Bedell said his amendment "reduces the cost of the farm bill to a level nearly equal to the version passed by the Senate, while at the same time providing a much stronger support system for far-

mers than that approved in the Senate bill."

The National Milk Producer Federation called the Bedell amendment a "good compromise" and an improvement over the Senate version.

The Senate, last month, adopted the Reagan Administration's proposal that called for a minimum 70 percent parity level. The Administration's proposal also deleted the semi-annual adjustment and asked for an annual price adjustment unless net CCC purchases stay below \$750 million.

Other major differences include target and loan prices for corn and wheat, Palmer said.

(Turn to Page A16)



Autumn has found a home in Lancaster County for a brief spell bringing with it crispy weather, harvest time, and breathtaking scenes of corn stalks, bundled children, Indian corn and falling leaves. Corn shocks such as those above, create quite a picturesque setting for the hundreds of farms on Lancaster's out-of-the-way country roads.