

# Lebanon Farm-City

(Continued from Page A21)

When farmer Leroy Geesam visited the Bethlehem Steel plant, he confessed he too had an eye-opening experience. And, he said, it was the first time he has ever "showered before going to work."

Farmer Cyrus Bomberger welcomed Alcoa's Howard Boose to the agricultural world. This was the first time Boose was on a farm since the time when farmers used horses to do all the work.

"A farmer is a laborer, machinist, welder, manager," listed Boose. "Name any job down at the plant and a farmer does it. And his wife is the accountant and worker."

Boose related how he witnessed a calf being born, and how he was amazed at the scale of the operation. "Farmers have advanced faster than industry," observed Boose. "That's why they can feed so many people. Farmers are businessmen in every sense of the word. They do it all."

Bomberger, too, had good words to say about his visit to the Alcoa plant. "When I went by the guard, I saw he had about a half dozen televisions to watch — it looked like a good place to work," he laughed.

The Farm-City job exchange, said Bomberger, was "more than worthwhile" and gave him the

chance to be an ambassador for the farm community.

Dairyman Hershey Bare shared a day on the road with Ace Aluminum's owner Jim Meluskey. And when the business's owner spent the day at the Bare farm, Meluskey confessed he "never had so much fun and had such an education."

His day on the farm started at 5 a.m., and his schooling in how to milk cows began. He said he learned how and why to wash udders, what to feed cows and heifers, and that the word "freshening" equals "birth." Meluskey even had the chance to help chase a neighbor's bull that had gotten loose in the corn field, and toured several nearby farms.

"I enjoyed seeing the differences between the farms," he shared. "Farmers are indirect competitors, and yet they're all friends. I was impressed with the companionship — and the size of machinery used, the acreage, and feed costs. You have a new fan in me — I even started reading the farm news page in the local paper."

And that's what Farm-City Week is all about, stated chairman Harry Bachman — sharing with the community what agriculture's all about.



Pa. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Chet Heim helped convince these ladies and even some husbands, that the prices paid for these handspun, handwoven shawls were real bargains. Wearing the wraps created during

Lebanon County's Sheep to Shawl Contest are proud owners, from left, Tressie Caton, Reading; Sandy Bachman, Annville; Sandy Plummer, Lebanon; and Pat Houser, Lebanon.

## Alfalfa producers

(Continued from Page A25)

### Forage and Seed Conference

The overall average estimated hay equivalent yield for the top 10 growers in each of the three years was 7.5 tons per acre, more than double the state average. Average estimated production of crude protein and total digestible nutrients for these growers was 2,634 pounds per acre and 7,534 pounds per acre, respectively.

Over the three-year period, a total of nine different high-yielding varieties were used by the 30 growers, indicating the excellent germ plasm currently available. These varieties also were consistently among the highest yielding in replicated research trials at various locations in the state.

All top growers planted alfalfa on well-drained soils, mainly of limestone origin. Lime and fertility program for establishment and maintenance were based on soil test and grower experience. Most producers applied dairy cow manure in the rotation before alfalfa.

Seventy-five percent of the top yields during the three year were made during the first full harvest year after the year of seeding and were from stands seeded in the spring without a companion crop. For the majority of the fields, a herbicide was used to control weeds at establishment.

Over the three-year period, all top 30 growers made at least four cuttings per year and three harvested their crop five times. In an area where three cuttings per year is common, this move to more frequent harvest by top producers indicates the potential of more intensive management for high yields of high quality forage.

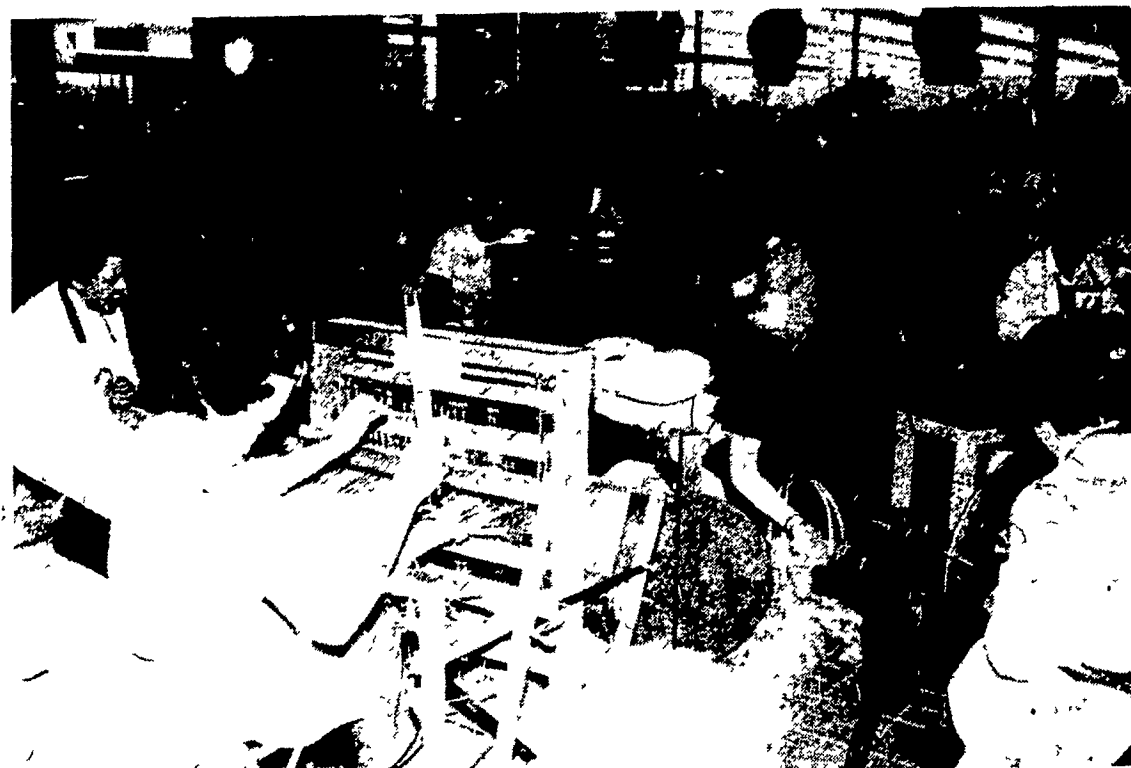
In 1978 three of the top 10 growers stored all of their cuttings as silage with eight storing one or more cuttings in this form. For the other two years, all 20 top producers stored at least one cutting as silage with 11 storing all cuttings in the silo.

The average cutting interval used by the top 10 growers in 1978 would be considered nearly ideal for Pennsylvania growing conditions — 36, 39 and 45 days between cuts 1 and 2, 2 and 3, and 3 and 4, respectively. The cutting

intervals in 1979 and 1980 were similar — approximately 38, 36 and 43 days, respectively, between cuts 1 and 2, 2 and 3, and 3 and 4, suggesting the less favorable harvesting conditions for alfalfa during those years as compared to 1978.

In Pennsylvania, controlling insects attacking alfalfa, especially potato leathopper, is essential to produce yields of high quality forage. In 1978 and 1980 all top growers sprayed their alfalfa crop at least once with an approved insecticide. Seven growers in 1978 and six growers in 1980 sprayed two or more times.

In 1979 the frequency of spraying to control insects was less, with three growers reporting almost no insect damage for the entire growing season.



The Lebanon Plaza Mall was the scene for the second Lebanon County Sheep to Shawl contest last Friday evening. In not much more than an hour, the wool shorn from sheep was

carded and combed, twisted and spun, and skillfully woven into gorgeous shawls by four area teams.

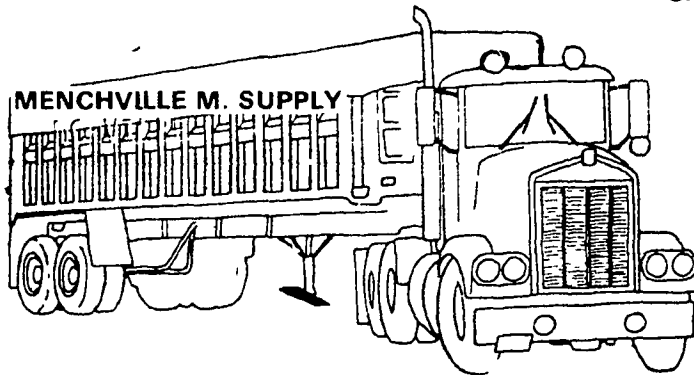
## MENCHVILLE M. SUPPLY CORP.

Suppliers of Dried Brewers Grain with Dried Brewers Yeast and Dump Trailer Hauling Available

### ANALYSIS ON 100% DRY BASIS

Crude Protein	24%/29½%
Crude Fiber	15%/16½%
Crude Fat	5%
NFE	38%

LOADED FROM THE BREWERY



494 Menchville Road  
Newport News, VA. 23602  
804-877-0207

