

# Lancaster Farming

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## Keystone Pork Congress poses key questions to producers

BY SHEILA MILLER

CAMP HILL — It was a day of decisions on Thursday as the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council met here at the Penn Harris Motor Inn for their 4th Keystone Pork Congress.

For many of the state's pork producers, the first decision of the day came early in the morning as they debated about the 10 inches of snow that fell the night before and whether the drive to the Congress would be a slip-sliding experience. Those who braved the highways

were in store for a day of informative sessions, two rooms of commercial exhibitors who were ready and anxious to tell their 'success' stories, and an evening marked with honors.

The state's hog producers took part in an opinion poll during the morning session as Dr. Max Van Buskirk, Jr., chief veterinarian with the state's Bureau of Animal Industry, called for a show of hands concerning proposed regulations which would involve the state's swine industry. The

proposal deals with changes in health requirements for importation and intrastate transportation of swine.

The sum and substance of the proposed regulations provides language which would require all hogs, from feeder pigs to market hogs to breeding swine, to be marked in such a manner that the animals could be traced back to the farm of origin at any point on their road to market. This would be accomplished through an ear tattoo, slap tattoo, or ear tag.

The reason for identification, according to the chief veterinarian, is to be able to limit the movement of swine within Pennsylvania to only those animals that are known to be free of dangerous, contagious diseases.

The big question in most minds of the pork producers was "Whose responsibility will it be to mark the hogs?" According to Van Buskirk, the responsibility to see that every hog carcass that's hanging in a packing plant can be traced back to the farm will rest with the licensed auction operators, packers, livestock dealers, down to the truckers who pick up hogs at the farm. At each point of transfer it will be necessary for records to be kept on where the hogs are coming from, with the seller being assigned a registered herd number.

If the farmer doesn't tattoo the hogs, then it will be the respon- (Turn to Page A34)

## FFA chapters begin national observance

LANCASTER — As another National FFA Week begins today, it's evident the "future" is still very much a part of the Future Farmers of America.

If you doubt it, consider two separate but similar situations involving FFA members in two different parts of Pennsylvania. In their individual ways, they're helping to shape not only their own futures, but also that of agriculture, as are their nearly half-million fellow FFA'ers across the nation.

This week, a 17-year-old member

of the Manheim FFA was named to the Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board. Thus, Michael Pflieger, R4, Manheim, is becoming part of one of the most important future concerns of agriculture — the preservation of farmland.

And in Snyder County, 16-year-old Ken Blank, of the Middleburg FFA, is deeply involved in the shaping of his and his family's dairying future. (For Ken's story, turn to Page A28.)

As National FFA Week again (Turn to Page A27)

## Bradford reverses Clean and Green assessment increase

BY JANE BRESEE  
Staff Correspondent

TOWANDA — The Bradford County Board of Assessment reversed their decision to raise use values for those enrolled under the Clean and Green Act, last Friday.

The decision came after protest was made by several farm groups, including the Bradford-Sullivan County Farmers' Association, the Bradford County Grange, and the Bradford County Forest Landowners Association.

Although the Board of Assessment had raised the figures according to the recommendation data received from the Department of Agriculture, landowners claimed that the figures were too high for the Bradford County area. The 82 percent increase in forest land assessment from \$40 per acre to \$73 per acre, was deemed, particularly unfair by the groups.

After meeting with Department of Agriculture officials in Harrisburg recently, Bradford County Commissioner Bill Gannon learned that the recommended use values were based on average statistics compiled from 1974-1979, and that the information lagged behind current use values. He also learned some of the use value figures were not based upon specific Bradford county information.

Chairman of the Bradford County Commissioners, Francis Douglas, promised in the recent Board of Assessment meeting that a committee of representatives from the county farm and landowner groups will be formed and also will include representatives from borough councils, township supervisors, school boards, and the Soil Conservation Service to study use values and make recommendations before any future increase in use values is ever attempted.

The Bradford County Assessor's office will be sending notices to the 4,000 enrollees under Clean and Green within a three-month period changing the values back to their former level, it was announced.

Bradford County experienced a total reassessment in 1977, a traumatic period for all property and land owners who had not been reassessed for a period of 16 years. Because of the radical increase in valuation, Bradford County adopted the Clean and Green Law, in 1978, and agreed with local farmers to use the recommended use values from the Department of Agriculture's 1974 statistics, the most current data available at that time.

The Bradford County Board of Assessment voted to raise the use valuations, in August 1981, and

although the decision was printed in the local county newspaper once, the news did not hit the farming community until early in 1982. All who were affected by the increase expressed sentiments that they were being unfairly singled out to pay more taxes while at the same time other tax payers' assessments had not been raised. Many reacted by calling and writing the Board of Assessment, and the assessor's office to object.

## IMPCO District 7 reaffirms milkerendum yes vote

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO

MT. JOY — Officials from Inter State Milk Producers' Cooperative met with District 7 members, Thursday, to reaffirm the co-op's support of the milkerendum.

In other action during the annual District 7 meeting, members voted in officers for the 1982 season.

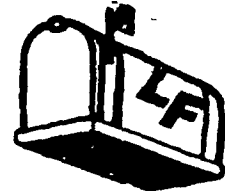
"Let's show the public and especially the federal government that we are interested in moving our product in the market," emphasized District 7 director Daniel Martin.

"Unless we producers get in back of it (milkerendum) and



Pennsylvania's 1982 All-American Pork Producer is Lebanon County's Charles Bomgardner. Bomgardner received a free trip and accommodations to the National Pork Congress to be held March 9-12 in Indianapolis, Indiana from Diamond-Shamrock's Tim Stalker. Looking on approvingly is Marlene Bomgardner.

Inside  
This  
Week's...



The annual meeting of the Lancaster County Extension was a double treat for participants hearing Dean Smith of Penn State and electing five new directors. . . B26.

Gearing up for their annual PA Holstein Association meeting next week are Holstein breeders all over the state. Find stories on these bovine black and whites on pages. . . D2, D16, and B22.

RAMP phase-out could mean 40 less SCS technicians in Pennsylvania. . . A32.

### Home and Youth

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To help erase some of the con- (Turn to Page A28)