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In Lancaster County

Brenemans are Outstanding Conservation farmers

BY SHEILA MILLER

INTERCOURSE — Albert and Mary Jane Breneman were honored as this year's Outstanding Conservation Cooperator by the Lancaster County Conservation District during their 31st annual meeting and banquet held Thursday evening here at the Harvest Drive Restaurant.

The Brenemans, who are successful dairy farmers in Rapho Township, have been applying conservation to their 140-acre farm

since 1967. See their story on page A36.

Three other people were recognized by the District for their outstanding efforts in the field of conservation farming.

Bob Anderson, a vocational agriculture teacher in the Eastern Lancaster County School District, received an award for his work with adult "conservative" farmers in the New Holland area.

In presenting the award, District Chairman Aaron Stauffer

remarked, "Bob and his co-worker Don Robinson have been a great asset to the agricultural community by helping farmers with production, marketing, safety and management. They also plan and lay out soil and water conservation practices which is a great help to our office."

The District also recognized the contributions of Ben Wenger, Wenger Implement Company located in Buck, who loaned the conservation organization a John Deere 4-row no-till corn planter to use in a conservation tillage program last year. This planter was loaned to 31 farmers.

And Don "Abe" Kauffman, a West Hempfield Township zoning officer who "moonlights" as a hog producer — especially during farrowings — was honored for his help in calling the District's attention to potential problems during development plan reviews.

"Abe is a great ally to the
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Albert and Mary Jane Breneman, dairy producers from Rapho Twp. were named Lancaster's Outstanding Conservation Cooperators at Thursday evening's Conservation District banquet. Making the presentation of a picture of their farm is Tom Johnston, District Administrator.

Growing Maryland tobacco may bring quota penalty

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

LANCASTER — Lancaster County's hard-pressed tobacco growers, many of whom have not yet sold last year's Pennsylvania Type crop, are now being told it will be against the law to grow any Maryland Type tobacco this year.

Growing of Maryland Type 32 tobacco in Pennsylvania is now subject to marketing quota penalties, according to a letter being sent to area growers by the Lancaster County ASCS Office.

The growing of the traditional Pennsylvania Type 41 is exempt from any penalties.

The ruling that the growing of Maryland Type tobacco in the state will be illegal beginning this year is part of the Federal Farm Bill, which was signed into law last Dec. 22.

In recent weeks, it has come to light that Pennsylvania is considered a tobacco quota state since quotas are in effect for Type 53 tobacco, which is still grown by one farmer in Lycoming County.

In the past, up to 19 farmers had grown the Type 53 in the Lycoming and Clinton counties area and allotments remain in effect for five years after the last crop is grown.

Actually, Pennsylvania growers of the Type 53 tobacco had turned down continuation of the quotas, but were outvoted by growers in

Ohio and Wisconsin. Therefore, Pennsylvania is still considered a tobacco quota state.

Ironically, Lancaster County is likely the only tobacco growing area in the country that has always voted down quota allotments and now is subject to a quota system on the Maryland Type tobacco.

If the Farm Bill is strictly enforced locally, it could affect the expected planting of anywhere from 3,000 to 5,000 acres of the Maryland Type. The Maryland Type, a lighter, finer grained tobacco than the Pennsylvania broadleaf, is primarily grown in the Ephrata-Hinkletown-New Holland area of Lancaster County.

Growers in this area also are experiencing the most difficulty with marketing last year's Pennsylvania Type crop still hanging in the sheds.

Ray Brubaker, executive
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Potato referendum set for April 30

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's 300 potato growers will vote next month, to double their penny per hundredweight assessment on potatoes produced and sold in order to generate additional funds for the state's research program, severely affected by federal and state budget cuts.

State Agricultural Secretary Penrose Hallowell, Tuesday, announced the referendum on the basis of 100 percent favorable testimony from producers that attended a one-hour public hearing at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

"We had such favorable and sincere testimonies," said Raymond Reiter, supervisor of the

Potato Research Program, who expressed optimism following Tuesday's hearing that attracted more than 30 growers.

The 6-year-old research program, partially funded by producers, agricultural and potato chip companies, is expected to lose an annual \$100,000 from halted state and federal funds. If approved, the two cent assessment will provide \$60,000.

The program is designed to develop elite potato seed and varieties to help the state's industry compete on a national level.

Ballots and referendum information will be mailed on April 29 to producers with more than 25 acres in potatoes, said Reiter. Growers will have a 14-day period, from April 30 to May 13, to vote. The referendum passage requires a majority by number and volume of voting producers.

According to Reiter, a teller-committee of three potato growers will tabulate the votes and announce the result by Monday, May 17.

David MacKenzie, Penn State plant pathologist and head of the growers' Centre County research farm, blamed spiralling inflation and the "New Federalism," as major contributors to the program's deficit. He explained that stripping the farm to the bare operating minimum was necessary, signalling leaner times — not the program's end.

"We plan to continue looking for alternative sources of support, whatever the outcome of the referendum. By no means should anyone imply that defeat of the referendum will cause the closing of the research program," MacKenzie emphasized.

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USDA welcomes dairy ideas

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — U.S. dairy farmers could see a change in the present price support program as early as October 1982, based on several alternatives offered during a public dairy symposium held earlier this week,

said USDA spokesman Randy Russell.

Russell, chairman of the USDA committee to consider the ideas, said two major and several minor proposals, geared toward controlling production and increasing demand, highlighted the two-day symposium.

"We're basically fresh out of new ideas and will be looking into a wide range of alternatives," Russell explained.

The National Milk Producer's Federation self-help program proposal and a base production plan submitted by Wisconsin Congressman Steven Gunderson and others, are the two major proposals on which the committee will concentrate.

The NMPF self-help program is a two-tier pricing system administered by dairy board. The program will be based on a beginning year estimated surplus level.

For example, if the national surplus is estimated at 10 percent, farmers would receive full market price for 90 percent of their milk. The remaining 10 percent will receive a reduced price, related to the world market price.

New for you

Will Rogers once said, "All I know is what I see in the newspapers." Well that's great 'if you can find what you want to know; toward that end, and after analyzing reader input, we have revamped a small corner of our paper by including a table of contents.

From this issue on, you can find what you want with the leaf of a page. Try it, and find on page 3, the newest addition to our weekly conveyance

of farm news, markets, and features.

As our goal is and will continue to be to get the news to you, the farmer, in the most industrious, precise fashion we possibly can, we welcome your input. The paper is designed with you in mind, and has established itself as the reference and the publication you can depend on; so take advantage of the right to supply your opinion.