

# Lancaster Farming

VOL. 27 No. 30

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, May 22, 1982

\$2.50 per year

## Reagan troops invade Pa. dairy farm

### Reagan mixes humor and policy

**BY DONNA TOMMELLE**  
**LANDENBERG** — The peaceful setting of Chester County's rolling hills received quite a royal disturbance last Friday when four large helicopters, scores of automobiles and thousands of people invaded the Leon Wilkinson dairy farm to get a look at Ronald Reagan.

And just a look or fleeting glance is exactly what most people got. In what started out as a quiet stop-over with some invited guests before heading to Philadelphia, the president's "chat" with American farmers attracted more people than the Secret Service cared to handle. The remedy, which was sour to most, was to cut-off the flow of traffic and prohibit anyone from reaching the farm proper, regardless if they had guest status or not.

While 300 fortunate folks waited  
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Two "Washington cowboys" come face to face with the non-voting public, the true backbone of the dairy industry. Both President Reagan and U.S. Agriculture Secretary John

Block were on hand, last Friday, at the Leon Wilkinson dairy farm in Landenberg, to answer farmers' questions

### Block defends dairy plan

**LANDENBERG** — U.S. Agriculture Secretary John Block may not be the most popular man in dairy circles these days, but last Friday, Block along with his boss, Ronald Reagan, met with farmers on a dairy farm to provide support for the president as well as defend his emergency dairy plan.

Earlier this month, Block proposed a multi-provision plan which would give him total discretion in setting price support levels.

"The secretary has to have enough discretion to act with the time," he said. "Somebody has to make the decision." Block reminded farmers and reporters that his plan also calls for the secretary to work with a Dairy Advisory board, primarily made up of producers.

The secretary noted that solving the dairy surplus problem is top priority on his list.

"It bothers me to realize that the U.S. can produce grain and forage

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## Pfizer opens Pa. corn research station

**BY DICK ANGLESTEIN**  
**LAWN** — A second seed corn company is taking advantage of the unique climatic conditions of Southeastern Pennsylvania with the opening of a research station in the Lancaster-Lebanon-Dauphin counties area.

Pfizer Genetics Inc., producers and marketers of Trojan brand hybrid seed corn, this spring opened a research station with offices at Lawn, Lebanon County, and test fields at Palmyra, Landisville and Lawn.

Manager of the new research station is Joel Cohen, graduate of the University of Massachusetts where he majored in plant breeding and genetics.

"We have just completed the planting of some 45 acres of test plots," Cohen said.

"We plan to expand the testing acreage and range in the future with the research program moving out into a greater radial distance to such areas as Virginia, New York and Maryland.

"But our overall program will continue to be concentrated in Pennsylvania."

The other major company which has just opened a research station in Lancaster County is Northrup King, with an office at Mount Joy and test facilities between East Petersburg and Manheim.

The Pennsylvania research station is the 15th such facility of Pfizer Genetics.

The main test plots of some 30 acres for development and testing of new corn hybrids are located on

land of the Milton Hershey School off Railroad Street about two and one-half miles northwest of Palmyra. Other testing sites are located on the farms of Richard Metzler and Kenneth Zurin in the Landisville area of Lancaster County and of Tim Tyson at Lawn.

Farm operator of the Pfizer facilities is Joseph Schott, of Lebanon.

The local Pfizer testing program, according to Cohen, will be concentrating on the development and improvement of Trojan hybrids in the 105 to 120-day maturity range.

"While we will be testing and developing hybrids in this maturity range, our work will be coordinated with all of the other research stations," Cohen said.

Other Pfizer research stations are located at Tifton, Ga.; Terra Haute, Ind.; Windfall, Ind.; Beaman, Ia.; Eldora, Ia.; Mason City, Ill.; Madison, Wisc.; Kingston, Oh.; Farmville, N.C.; Garden City, Kan.; Doniphan, Neb.; Oliva, Mn.; St. Louis, Mo.; and Kihei, Maui, Hawaii.

Pfizer Inc. Central Research is located at Groton, Ct.

While the Pfizer research station is new to Pennsylvania, the company's testing program has been conducted in the southeastern section of the state for a number of years.

Trojan test plots have been located in this area and previously were included under the research programs of the stations in Windfall, Ind. or Kingston, Oh.

"Thus, in the work of our new station," Cohen explained, "we will be able to draw upon the previous research that has been done in this area through these other programs."

One of the major factors that has accounted for the increased interest of corn breeders in Southeastern Pennsylvania is the high humidity climatic conditions, which are not only ideal for

growing corn but also for generating plant diseases which are common to the crop.

This type of climate is ideal for leaf blight, stalk rot and various insect diseases. Corn breeders are able to easily culture such diseases and inoculate plants as they work to develop types and hybrids that are more resistant to the problems.

## Get ready for L.F.'s Dairy Month celebration

**LANCASTER** — In two weeks, **Lancaster Farming** will unveil its special dairy issue, designed to salute the number one money-maker in the state.

From cover to cover, we'll feature something for every member of your hard-working dairy family. Management articles with a common sense approach will offer tips on milking, feeding, health care and much more. Current DHIA's will keep you in touch with the Commonwealth's top producers. We'll bring you ideas from farmers as well as those who serve the dairy community. Watch the **Lancaster Farming** for updates on the much talked about dairy price support program and results of the Penn-

sylvania Milk Marketing referendum.

Ladies, get your recipe boxes ready. Beginning June 5 our Home on the Range section will offer a variety of nutritious dairy recipes. To the first 100 cooks who share their recipes, a special Dairy Month gift will be sent to show our appreciation.

Your response to this year's Dairy Photo contest already has started and it looks as if this year's amateur dairy photographers will make this contest more successful than our first. Remember, entries should be postmarked no later than June 23. This year's contest features three categories: Dairy Farms, a dairy farm in a scenic setting, Dairy Partners, dairy animals together with their

**HARRISBURG** — Today is the last day for dairy farmers to mail ballots for the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Program.

Two days ago, less than one-half of the 15,000-plus ballots mailed have been returned. According to Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture spokesman Kevin Hickey, 6,401 ballots have been received from producers. The ballots will remain unopened until a three-man teller committee begins tabulation sometime next week.

favorite people; Dairy Life, unposed photos of events as they happen on a dairy farm. For additional rules, see our special Dairy Photo entry blank on page B12.

For all the little farmers, Kid's Korner will feature new dairy facts and puzzles designed to educate and entertain.

To reserve that special advertising space in our June 5 issue, we remind our advertisers that deadlines for ads are May 28.

Remember, we want you to be a part of this very important issue. We welcome feature ideas and news that will highlight and salute the nation's vital dairy industry.

For news or advertising information call 717-626-1164 or 717-394-3047.