

# Lancaster Farming

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## N.E. ag secretaries hit dairy issues

BY SHEILA MILLER

HERSHEY — The future of the Northeastern states' agriculture, especially the dairy industry's outlook, were key topics this week during the Northeastern Association of State Departments of Agriculture annual meeting held here at Hotel Hershey.

Pennsylvania's Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell, who served as the Association's president for the past year, hosted the four-day "meeting of minds" with ag secretaries and commissioners from Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont.

As panelists participated in discussions on issues facing the

agricultural industry, the dairy situation surfaced as a prime concern. U.S. House Agriculture Committee Chairman E. Kika de la Garza admitted the national dairy program "needs reform" as he addressed a capacity crowd of farmers, agribusiness leaders, and legislators during Tuesday evening's banquet.

He stated the current dairy surplus situation confronting the legislators in Washington D.C. only represents a 30-day supply which some of his peers feel is too small in the event of a disaster. The cost of the national price support program, he said, would not be of concern if the federal government was not having budget problems.

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## York zoning board rules for "small farm"

BY JOYCE BUYP  
Staff Correspondent

DELTA — The zoning hearing board of Peach Bottom Township, York County has ruled in favor of two "small farm" landowners who challenged sections of the township's agriculture land preservation ordinances.

Lowell Williams, R3 Delta, and Philip Nicholson, R2 Delta, had appealed to the hearing board about an ordinance that went into effect last August. That regulation prohibited the sale of a plot of prime farmland if either the buyer's or seller's acreage, after the sale, totalled less than 50 acres.

Both petitioners wish to expand their farm sizes with the purchase of a few acres of neighboring property.

Five public hearings were held from February through May, with challengers charging that the ordinances allowed large farms to grow larger, but prohibited small

acreage owners from expanding their holdings through acquisitions of a few acres. (Lancaster Farming had detailed the April 20 hearing in the issue of May 1, 1982.)

In their July decision, the hearing board wrote the opinion that "...said sections of the Peach Bottom Township Zoning Ordinance are declared to be arbitrary, unreasonable and unconstitutional."

Peach Bottom Township's board of supervisors has 30 days in which to appeal the hearing board's ruling. They plan a public meeting on July 28 at the township building to determine if township residents support an appeal or a rewrite of the disputed sections.

In a 22-page document, the hearing board outlined their extensive findings of fact after the five meetings. They cited the success of several small farms already operating in York County.

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## Imports threaten apple market

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ

LANCASTER — The Pennsylvania apple juice industry may be headed for some hard times from drastically reduced sales if imports from foreign countries such as Argentina aren't stopped soon.

This is the sentiment being expressed from various producers in Adams County — the state's largest producer of apples, and the country's largest concentrated apple processing county (due largely to the presence of three of the country's leading apple processors — Musselmanns, Knouse Foods, and Duffy Mott).

Argentina has been singled out as the major concern among apple growers because of their rate of

sales into the United States. In U.S. dollars, last year, the Argentine value of apple juice concentrate exceeded \$27 million — 45 percent of the total dollar market for imported apple juice and 49 percent of the total quantity of imported apple juice. This figure, from 1981, is up 7.6 percent from 1980.

Guy Donaldson, apple producer and chairman of PACMA, a marketing and bargaining affiliate of Pennsylvania Farmers Association, attributed this high import figure to Argentina's "tremendous inflation rate," because "they'll do anything to get currency into their country. They need to export all they can."

Argentina has been quoted by



Agriculture secretaries and commissioners from the Northeast met in Hershey this week to share ideas and propose solutions to problems facing the farm industry. Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell, front right, hosted the summer conference. Pictured with Hallowell are: from

bottom, Robert Lonnsberry, Iowa, national president of the ag secretaries' association; Howard Townsend, N.H.; George Dunsmore, Vt.; Leonard Krogh, Ct.; Donald Lynch, Del.; Stewart Smith, Me.; Roger Barber, N.Y.; Arthur Bronw, N.J.

*Type 32 now "legal" in Pa.*

## Tobacco exemption passes

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

WASHINGTON — Action in the nation's capital this week brought a collective sigh of relief from a lot of Lancaster County tobacco growers.

All that Maryland tobacco that has been growing by leaps and bounds in county fields during the recent hot weather is now legal and free of quota restrictions.

An exemption to permit the

growing of Type 32 tobacco in Pennsylvania free of quota regulations, spearheaded by Congressman Bob Walker, was part of the 1982 Tobacco Program Act that passed the Senate and was due to be signed by President Reagan late this week.

It had been approved by the House previously.

The local growing of Maryland tobacco, which has been increasing due primarily to more favorable marketing conditions, previously faced an uncertain future when severe restrictions were put on the growing of non-quota tobacco, such as Type 32, in any state with tobacco quotas.

While Lancaster County growers traditionally have rejected any quotas, a small 12-acre allotment for Type 53 tobacco remains under quota in the northern part of the state.

Now, under the new exemption, the non-quota Type 32 can be grown free of quota restrictions in states, including Pennsylvania, with 20 acres or less of quota tobacco.

The effort to include the exemption in the tobacco bill and gain its approval began in earnest following a meeting held by Congressman Walker with USDA officials and growers at Terre Hill earlier in the year.

The restrictions that could affect local growers only came to light after plants were already in their seedbeds for the current growing season.

At Walker's urging, Rep. Charles Rose, of North Carolina, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Tobacco and Peanuts, agreed to put the 20-acre exemption in the Tobacco Program Act.

The restrictions against the growing of Maryland tobacco in quota states originally were placed in the 1981 Agriculture Act by two members of the Maryland Congressional delegation to counteract an increase in the growing of Type 32, primarily in burley states, which have quotas for that type of tobacco.

Maryland and burley tobacco are largely interchangeable in the production of cigarettes. Some burley growers had been moving to Maryland tobacco in an attempt to get around the quotas.

In Lancaster County, recent moves to Maryland tobacco have been primarily economic in nature.

While Maryland tobacco has been selling readily for about 1.30 a pound, Pennsylvania Type 41

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