

Lancaster Farming

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Four Sections

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, August 28, 1982

\$7.50 per year



Although this tractor cab stands idle for a moment, before the day ended visitors like Sam Martin, left and Kevin Stoops of Waynesboro, Franklin Co. examined, asked and learned about equipment, crops and much more as the 1982 Ag Progress Days turned Central Pennsylvania into a mammoth outdoor classroom.

Ag Progress feeds the knowledge-hungry

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO
ROCK SPRINGS — Last year, 96 percent of Ag Progress Days visitors surveyed said they'd return, explained AFD director J.D. Harrington.

They kept their word. They also brought back a few thousand more friends. On Tuesday, a record-breaking opening-day crowd of 25,000 visited Rock Springs, the permanent site of the three day event.

The record turn-out continued, despite early morning rains and heavy winds on Wednesday. By Thursday, the crowd surpassed the 80,000 mark, making another Ag Progress Days into the record books.

A slow economy had little effect on the army of commercial exhibitors, which also enjoyed

record numbers. Harrington noted commercial exhibits were up 5.5 percent from last year, totaling 260 in all. Combined with the educational exhibits, more than 300 exhibits, from cat care to combining, blanketed the land.

"We can handle more," assured Harrington. "But we've got to tighten up as we get bigger."

Violated rules and regulations, such as selling over-the-counter during AFD, can mean expulsion of a commercial exhibit. However, any exhibitor, promoting ag-related products, is welcome, Harrington added.

This year's theme, "Agriculture: the Growing Business," was evident throughout the event.

DeKalb and Ffizer grew last
 (Turn to Page A30)

Lancaster 4-H hog champ moves just down the road

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

LANCASTER — The Lancaster 4-H hog grand championship literally moved down the road less than a mile on Thursday.

The 1982 championship belongs to 14-year-old Deanne Myer, daughter of Marlin and Marcella Myer, of R5 Manheim, who showed her 210-pound lightweight to the top of the 138-hog roundup at the Lancaster Stockyards.

Last year, the champion honors were dominated by Liz and Chris Chapman, also of R5 Manheim.

And to keep the honors entirely in the neighborhood, the Myer Duroc came out of the Dutch

Valley Farms stock, which can claim a junior show sweep this year. The recent FFA grand champ also was a John Chapman-Mark Nestleroth product, as were the 4-H champions the previous two years.

"We were surprised," Marlin Myer commented.

"Surprised? I was shocked," exclaimed Deanne.

The youthful exhibitor moved to the top center of the show ring in just four years of 4-H competition. Her best previous showing was a reserve in the lightweight class last year. She's a member of the

(Turn to Page A35)

Lancaster maps last acre

BY SHEILA MILLER

MILLERSVILLE — If Lancaster County Conservation District directors Amos Funk and Aaron Stauffer had as much control over cropland use as it seemed they had over Wednesday's weather, the garden-spot county of Pennsylvania would not be losing the phenomenal amounts of soil to erosion it has been experiencing over the past 30 years.

Unfortunately, unlike the thunderstorm that vanished minutes before the county's Last Acre ceremony was scheduled to begin — celebrating the completion of a 6½-year cooperative soil mapping effort — the soil erosion problem in Lancaster County is continuing to increase in intensity as more farmers are breaking sod for corn ground.

"Farmers are creating problems faster than they can be solved," remarked Funk. Because of erosion and continually deeper plowing, Funk pointed out that the county's soils have lost 10-20 inches of depth since 1945. Back then the average topsoil boasted almost a yard of fertile ground.

Statistics verifying Funk's concerns about too much ground being turned by the plow were announced Wednesday by Lancaster County Extension Agent Jay Irwin. reported 1981 figures for corn planted in the county exceeded last year's totals by 3,600 acres. And 1980 corn acres topped 1979's by 12,000 acres. (see related story, page A17.)

When it comes to soil loss, however, the measure of land is in inches not acres — each year bringing fewer inches of soil for

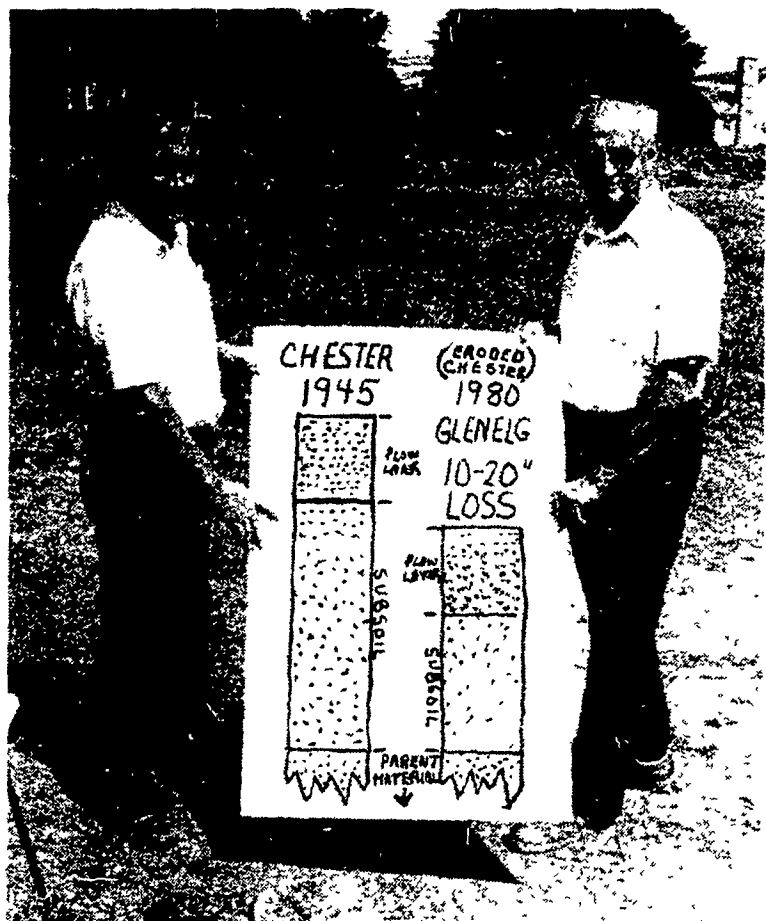
farmer's with unprotected cropland.

The "yardstick" for comparing Lancaster County's soils from the turn of the century until today is possible due to the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service, Penn State, and the Pennsylvania Conservation Commission. The first soil survey

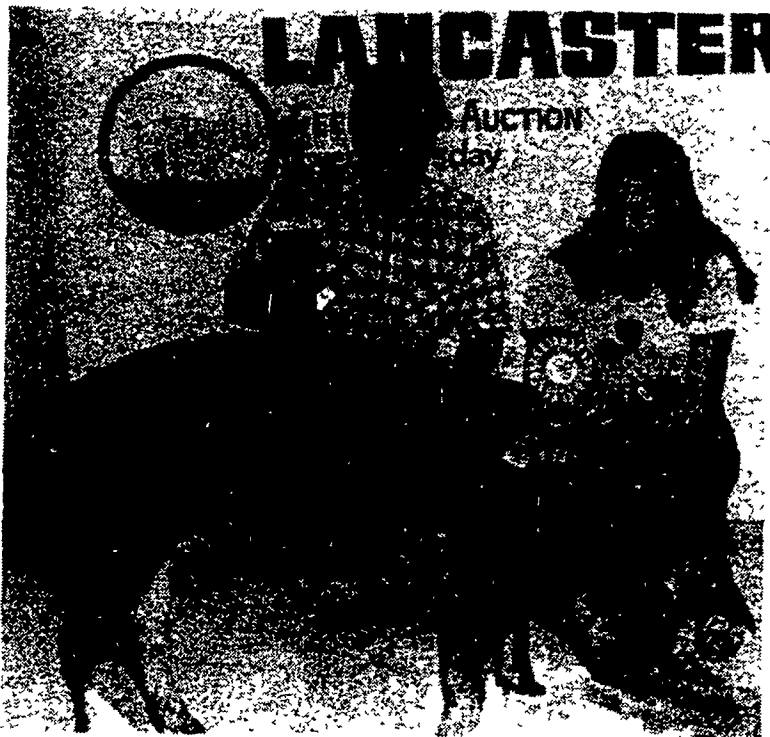
for the county was published in 1916, with an updated survey being completed in 1940 and again in 1959.

At a cost of about \$1 per acre, 605,500 acres of land were mapped in detail in Lancaster County since 1976 — with each soil and its particular characteristics being identified and charted by teams of

(Turn to Page A16)



During Lancaster's Last Acre ceremony, held Wednesday at Millersville, District directors Aaron Stauffer, left, and Amos Funk pointed out the increasing problem of erosion in the state's garden spot. Since 1945, unprotected soils have lost a foot of depth as farmers' plows sliced deeper into the fertile ground. This startling fact was brought into focus by the newly completed soil survey.



Grand champion of Lancaster 4-H Roundup, exhibited by 14-year-old Deanne Myer, R5 Manheim, goes to top bidder John Wagner, White Oak Mill, for \$3,171/b.

Regional Pa. Holstein Championship Shows inside on page A24, plus lots of dairy and livestock shows throughout this issue