

# Lancaster Farming

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## NE dairy stresses finances

HARTFORD, CT — The general mood of dairy farmers attending the annual meeting of the Northeast Dairy Conference was rather dreary, according to Fred C. Webster, conference secretary. Webster said, the farmers and various dairy representatives perceive the challenge their industry faces, but are not optimistic because they can't see the light at the end of the tunnel yet. No resolution is in sight.

Over 175 persons from the dairy industry, mostly farmers, were in attendance for the two day conference held here Tuesday and Wednesday at the at the Parkview Hilton. The conference focused on marketing and operating alternatives, and the possible effects of

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## Township hits 'snowstorms'

LANCASTER — Again, Manheim Township in Lancaster County, is asking the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and PennDot to get together and prevent those "summer snowstorms" along major highways.

As it did last year, the township commissioners "strongly urge and vigorously request" the Secretary of Agriculture and his Noxious Weed Control Commission to get rid of the Canada Thistle in the rights-of-way of Rts. 30, 222 and 283.

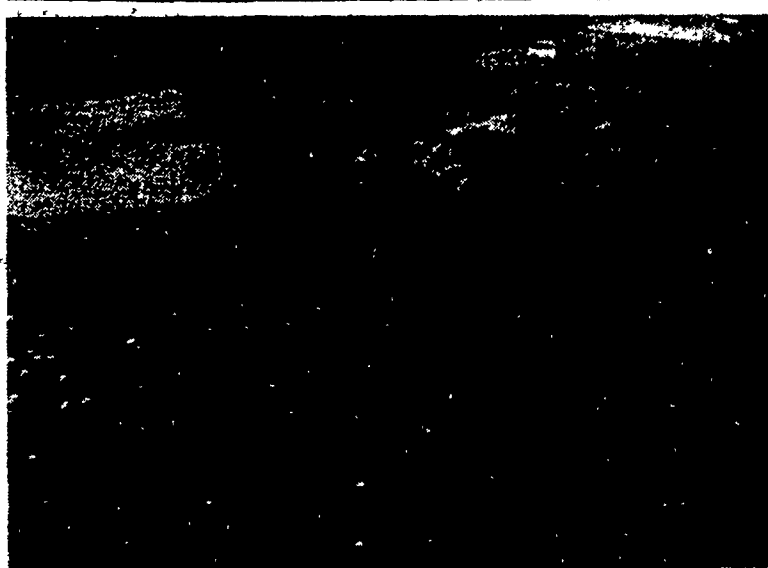
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## Take your PIK-erosion or conservation



Area farmland has been graced with recent above-average precipitation, which has helped replenish subsoil moisture. But too often, heavy rainfalls can turn a blessing into a burden as valuable top soil is carried off fields. Photo shows a small waterfall gushing off a Bucks County field. Now, as PIK idles a good bit of land, it provides an ideal time to install some conservation measures.

## Use PIK to good advantage



Canada thistle along state road in Lancaster County.

BY SYLVIA COOPER

LANCASTER — Wondering what to do with those idle acres created by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Payment-in-Kind (PIK) program?

Since the idle acres will most likely come from the farmers' poorest land, there is concern about the impact the program will have on conservation.

Elwood Hatley, Penn State agronomist, said that farmers should take a positive approach to the program by making improvements in the land while it is out of production.

He advised planting a legume like red or sweet clover to improve the nitrogen levels in the soil and at the same time prevent erosion. A legume like clover would add as much as 100-200 pounds of nitrogen

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## What is price of ag safety?

UNIVERSITY PARK — What is the going price tag on ag safety these days?

Pennsylvania and other states may have to answer that question this year if federal budgetary intentions go through as planned.

And, it's altogether possible that in some states ag safety programs, which in Pennsylvania has featured such things as farm rescue training for firemen and ambulance personnel, may be appreciably affected.

The concern centers around the Federal Government's intentions to drop the specific budget item which has been earmarked for ag safety since the mid-70's. The budget item has totaled just over \$1 million nationally, which amounts to about \$20,000 for each state.

Even with this flat, but certain budget item for ag safety, the programs have been eroded over the years by inflation and higher costs.

But now, the Federal Government wants to lump ag safety into the overall formula funding for each state. This is ag funding which is based on a formula that includes such things as number of farms, total rural population, etc.

The only trouble is that the government wants to keep formula funding at last year's levels. And, as Dean Samuel Smith of Penn State's Ag School explains, that really amounts to a seven percent cut in funds due to inflation and other rising costs.

So, with ag safety included in formula funding, it would mean

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## Roundup of current ag legislation from Harrisburg

### Ag development remains in study group

HARRISBURG — The Ag Development Authority Bill is still being held in special study committee to further define the financial aspects of the bonds required to fund the bill.

This study committee of the House Ag and Rural Affairs Committee is scheduled to meet again on Thursday to review the financial aspects of the bill.

Present at the Thursday session are expected to be bonding experts who have worked on arrangements for similar authorities in a number of other states.

It is expected that the bill may come out of committee about mid-April.

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BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

### Proposed cruelty to animals bill rears its head in the Senate again

HARRISBURG — A proposed cruelty to animals bill has reared its head again in the State Senate.

Senate Bill 367, which was introduced by Sen. Edward Early, D-Allegheny County, on Feb. 23 has been referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The bill, which resembles proposed legislation which died in committee last year, provides for penalties for cruelty to animals.

The bill would make it a summary offense — misdemeanor of the third degree — to engage in various activities concerning fowl and other livestock.

Activities covered under the proposed bill include:

—Selling, bartering or giving away baby chickens, ducklings or

other fowl, under one month of age, or rabbits under two months of age, as pets, toys, premiums, or novelties or to color, dye, stain or otherwise change their color or to

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE BILL

No. 367 Session of 1983

AN ACT

Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for penalties for cruelty to animals.

bring them into the state. The bill would exempt the activities of persons engaged in the business of selling for purposes of commercial breeding and raising IN PROPER FACILITIES. (Capital letters are Lancaster Farming's emphasis.)

—The wanton and cruel ill treatment, overloading, beating or otherwise abusing of any animal and the depriving of necessary sustenance, drink, shelter or veterinary care.

—The fighting or baiting of any bull, bear, dog, cock or other creature or being associated with any place in which such things take place.

—The selling or using of a disabled horse.

—The transportation of any

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### Senate passes Clean/Green 2-acre splitoff

HARRISBURG — The State Senate last week unanimously passed the amendment to the Clean and Green Act 319 which provides for a one-time split-off of two acres of land for farm retail markets.

The bill has now gone to the House and will be discussed by the House Committee on Agriculture and Rural Affairs at a meeting on Tuesday.

The amendment to Act 319 provides for excluding up to two acres of land from the provision of Act 319 for the purpose of commercial sales of agriculturally related products without triggering a tax rollback on the

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