

Lancaster Farming

VOL. 28 No. 44

Four Sections

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, September 3, 1983

\$7.50 per Year



Mark Tracy and his supreme champion lamb.

E-Town names supreme champ

ELIZABETHTOWN — A seven-year-old boy, too young to compete in 4-H, showed his Suffolk lamb, which weighs three times as much as he does, to the supreme championship of the Elizabethtown Fair.

Mark Tracy was the first winner of the new Supreme Championship Award, in which the grand champions of the four major species shows compete against each other for the revolving trophy. The lamb, steer, hog and dairy grand champions are judged against the "ideal" of its particular species.

The Supreme Champion Suffolk comes out of the flock of the Gerald Tracy family. Tracy manages Masonic homes. It was sired by the fifth indexing ram purchased at last year's Penn State Ram Test Sale. The ewe is among a group of commercial unregistered but purebred ewes purchased by

Tracy from John Kimbark, of Elstonville.

The Tracy flock not only took the grand championship of the market lamb show and the supreme championship, but penmates included the reserve champion sold to a Dauphin County exhibitor and a couple of class winners.

"We must be on the right track in our breeding program," Tracy commented.

The supreme champion was not sold but returned home for

showing in the open market or carcass class at KILE.

The Tracys are only in Lancaster County about four years, moving from Centre County — the traditional sheep capital of Pennsylvania with names like Kuzemchak and Harpster.

The supreme champion will not be shown before KILE because Mark at seven is too young for 4-H. But Elizabethtown is his home fair.

(Turn to Page A22)

Lancaster County adds all of Pa's new cows in 1982

LANCASTER — Lancaster County alone accounted for the entire increase in Pennsylvania's dairy herd in 1982.

Last year, the statewide dairy herd throughout Pennsylvania increased 9,000 cows from 721,000 to 730,000.

In Lancaster County, the total

number of cows jumped from 101,900 to 111,000 — an increase of 9,100 cows.

In all of the other counties throughout the state, there were fluctuations in cow numbers, but they balanced each other. Some counties added cows and some reduced herds.

For example, in the second, third and fourth-place counties in cow numbers, Bradford in second spot dropped 500 cows. Third-place Franklin added 800 cows. Third-place Chester County dropped 500 cows.

The 9,100-cow increase on Lancaster County's 1,850 dairy farms pushed the farm value of milk marketings to \$211,779,000, up \$16,762,000 from the \$195,017,000 in 1981.

In addition to the increased number of cows being milked, Lancaster County's average per-cow production increased 200 pounds from 13,200 to 13,400.

"This increase in cow numbers is due entirely to the economics in the dairy industry," explained Jay Irwin, County Extension Director.

"They had to increase their herds and become more efficient. They had to cover their increased costs of production."

He cited the following example:

Keith W. Eckel, president of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association commented, "The Reagan Administration demonstrated a total lack of understanding of the dairy situation, and the assessment is nothing but an economic straight jacket on dairymen's efforts to stay afloat."

"President Reagan is using his veto in a symbolic gesture of balancing the federal budget," Eckel stated. "What the farmer

needs is a partner in government willing to work for practical solutions to the dairy problem."

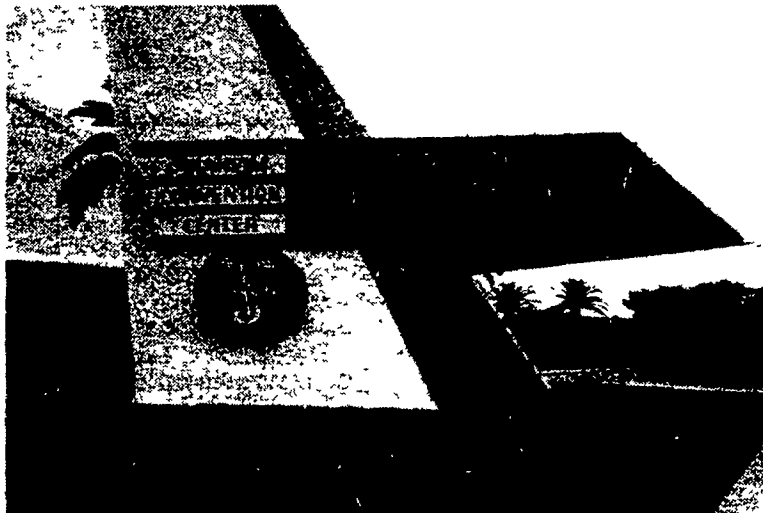
"Congress gave the assessment power to the Secretary of Agriculture Block, but by passing S.J. Res. 149 it wanted to at least delay the assessment until it could adopt a sensible legislative solution," Eckel said. "But, President Reagan failed to take the collective advice of Congress and dairy industry experts when he vetoed this legislation."

In a prepared statement from Corning, Iowa, DeVon Woodland, president of the National Farmers Organization responded to the veto with these comments, "When President Reagan vetoed the measure, ... he chose a time when Congress was out of town so he and his ag planners could quietly slip something over on the dairy farmers."

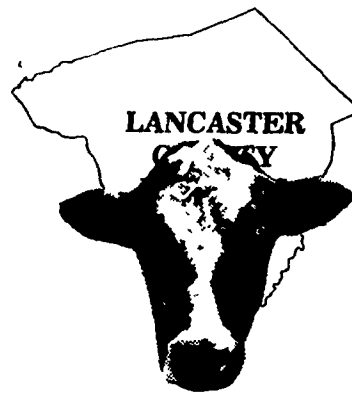
"For one thing," said Woodland, "taxing farm production is unprecedented in a farm law. For another thing, the additional 50 cent tax to be brought on by the president's veto of the joint resolution to hold back on it, won't really cause any dairy farmer to reduce production. The USDA says this latest added tax can be avoided by an 8 percent reduction in production. But reducing

(Turn to Page A24)

California promotion



This is the way they promote milk in California. For more on California milk promotion and a trip with Sally Bair to the huge dairies of the Chino Valley, turn to the A and B sections.



See editorial A10

In the past year or so, one Lancaster County dairy farmer has seen \$3.20 per hundredweight eroded from his income. Eighty cents of that amount is the expected support price increase that never took effect in 1982. The two 50-cent deductions add another \$1.00. And this farmer estimates his outright increase in production costs at \$1.40 per hundredweight.

"These dairy farmers have about reached their limit in improving efficiency to cover increased expenses," Irwin added.

In 1982, for the first time in 26 years since records have been kept

by the Pa. Crop Reporting Service, Lancaster County showed a drop in the value of total farm marketings. Farm marketings in Lancaster County in 1982 totaled \$697,111,770, down \$12,406,530 from the \$709,518,300 in 1981. This was the first drop since 1957 when annual figures were first available on the county level.

And watch out for this year, warns Irwin. While 1982's drop in the total value of Lancaster County's livestock and crops was primarily economic in nature, another expected decline this year will likely be related to the drought affecting crops and the heat stress affecting livestock.

For example, last year Lancaster County had an average grain corn yield of 120 bushels to the acre with a total countywide value of more than \$36 million. This year, that average yield may be nearly cut in half to 65 bushels to the acre.

Likewise, corn silage tonnages may be cut from last year's average of 20.1 to the acre to about 10 this year. Last year, silage added another \$31 million to crop values.

The value of hay and haylage in

(Turn to Page A24)