

Lancaster Farming

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USDA called into Avian flu outbreak



Honored as the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation's Industrious of the Year were, from left: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bross Jr., Turkey Industryman; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond W. Sauder, Egg Industryman; and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Burkholder, Broiler Industryman.

Poultry industry men honored

BY LAURA ENGLAND
GRANTVILLE — Three poultry industry men and 11 retired poultrymen were honored by the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation at its annual awards banquet, Oct. 26, at the Holiday Inn, Grantville. Selected as Industrious of the Year in their respective categories were Ben Burkholder, Raymond W. Sauder and Tom Bross Jr. The three each received a plaque presented by the 1982 winners Jay

Irwin, broiler industryman, Bob Bucher, egg industryman, and George Wentz, turkey industryman. Ben Burkholder, of Victor F. Weaver Inc., New Holland, was honored as the 1983 Broiler Industryman of the Year. One of the first employees of Victor Weaver in 1938, Burkholder has held numerous managerial positions including plant manager, manager of Weaver Quality Eggs, director

of purchasing, and currently vice president of manufacturing. He was president of both the Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association and the state Agricultural Advisory Council, is a representative of Victor F. Weaver on the Department of Agriculture and is serving on the Processing Committee for the Poultry and Egg Institute.

Selected as the 1983 Egg Industryman of the Year was Raymond W. Sauder of R.W. Sauder Inc., Lititz. Sauder's business currently processes and markets 19,000 to 20,000 cases of local eggs from independent farms. Also, 150,000 chicks are raised from day one to 20 weeks for the company's farmers.

Sauder is a past president of the Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association and is one of the founders of the Pennsylvania Egg Service Exchange. He is a member of Hess Mennonite Church and serves on the Lititz Area Mennonite School Board.

Dedicating 37 years to the business, Tom Bross Jr. was named 1983 Turkey Industryman of the Year. Founder and president of Round Hill Foods, New Oxford, Bross started in the business in 1946 when he purchased a locker plant in New Oxford and converted it into a combination grocery store and butcher shop.

Today, Round Hill Foods deals with hatching, farming, feed preparation, grow-out, processing, distribution and administration. About 150 people are employed at Round Hill, many of whom have been with the company since it began.

In addition to the Industrious of the Year, 11 retired poultrymen

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Live auction, exhibit ban begins Wednesday

BY LAURA ENGLAND

GRANTVILLE — Mild strains of avian influenza, which first affected Lancaster County in April, have now reached highly pathogenic levels and the disease is considered a national concern, according to Dr. Max Van Buskirk Jr.

Van Buskirk, of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry, told members of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation, Thursday, that the virus attack rate had increased, and its impact was changing.

11,000 birds lost

"We are now seeing more severe signs," Van Buskirk said, "and production has dropped considerably."

Although the number of birds lost to the disease is undetermined, Van Buskirk cited one Lancaster County producer who lost 11,000 of his 60,000 birds. The poultryman's production, which had been at 40,000 eggs a day, dropped to 26,000 and is now down to zero.

Both broiler and layer flocks, and some breeder flocks, have been infected by the disease, Van Buskirk said. By Sept. 1, 20 commercial flocks in the county had been diagnosed with avian influenza; the number now totals 46.

Quarantines imposed

To combat the disease, Lancaster County is placing quarantines on infected flocks or those suspected of the disease, Van Buskirk said. Producers will not be allowed to market their birds without a permit. Permits, he said, will be issued on a case-by-case basis.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's position on the matter will be discussed at a meeting in Washington, D.C., on Monday. Van Buskirk, who will attend the meeting, said he expects the USDA to follow up on the county quarantine and possibly impose a state quarantine.

Cases of avian influenza have now been reported in Franklin County and at least two flocks in Maryland, Van Buskirk said, but it hasn't been determined if the cases are of high or low virulence.

Precautions needed

The disease, which is transmitted by people and through affected birds, has no effect on meat and eggs and poses no threat to humans, Van Buskirk stressed.

Precautions against the spreading of avian influenza need to be taken. Van Buskirk said that feed delivery truckers should use foot baths and stay out of houses and buildings. He also suggested that trucks be sanitized after delivery.

"Farmers have to accept the responsibility to protect themselves and their neighbors," Van Buskirk said. "It's most important to act responsibly."

Livestock exhibitors taking to show trail

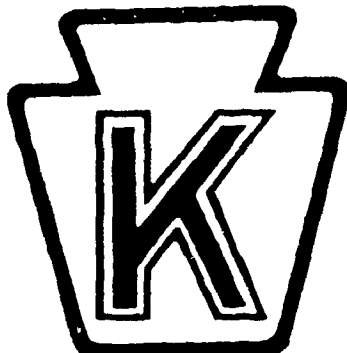
HARRISBURG — Livestock exhibitors are making final preparations to hit their major show trails of the year.

And, those trails are leading to Harrisburg and Louisville, Ky. and for some to both.

The Keystone International Livestock Exposition opens in the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg on Friday and continues through next Wednesday.

For a complete schedule of the judging, turn to Page D2 and review the classes that are launched with the opening sheep categories on Friday and continue through the final swine events on Wednesday, Nov. 9.

Also, there's a rundown of the many special events that are held in conjunction with KILE, beginning with the Pennsylvania Livestock Association banquet on Friday night through the intercollegiate and junior livestock judging contests on Tuesday, Nov. 8.



And, next Saturday the North American International Livestock Exposition gets underway in Louisville, Ky. A review of major judging and other events, along with a listing of some of the Pennsylvania exhibitors planning a trip down to Kentucky, can be found on page D6.

Both the KILE and NAILE information are part of Lancaster Farming's expanded "Livestock Latest" coverage found in the D Section.