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Charles and Lobertha Tindall
R1 Peach Bottom



Clarence and Grace Shearer
R1 Washington Boro



Paul and Emma Krantz
R1 Strasburg



Clayton and Dorothy Charles
R2 Lancaster

Century honors to 4 farms

BY TRISH WILLIAMS
STRASBURG — Behind every successful farmer is a set of dependable agribusinessmen, agricultural Extension agents, and farm organizations. And beyond the end of farm lane are a large number of non-farm workers employed by food processors, marketers and distributors.

These messages were heard Tuesday evening by members of Lancaster's County agricultural community at the Seventh Annual Agricultural-Industry Banquet, sponsored by the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Agriculture Committee.

Farmers, agribusinessmen, Extension agents, and bankers, sat down to what seemed like an early Thanksgiving feast. The occasion was a celebration of a successful alliance of these various segments that has enabled the Lancaster farming community to lead the state, and even the nation in agricultural production.

These noteworthy facts and figures were presented by Debra Martin, accomplished 4-H member and Dick Blouse, Jr., president of the Lancaster Chamber.

The highlight of the evening was the honoring of four farm families that have been part of Lancaster's rich farming heritage for more than 100 years. These four families were presented the highly cherished Century Farm Award. Only 818 farms in Pennsylvania, and 74 farms in Lancaster County have been presented this prestigious award for the con-

tinuation of the family farming tradition for more than one century on the same farm.

Those Century Farm families honored Tuesday evening were:

- J. Clayton and Dorothy B. Charles, RD 2, Lancaster, whose farm has been in the family since 1774.

- Charles C. and Lobertha Tindall, Jr., RD 1 Peach Bottom, whose farm has been in the family since 1882.

- Clarence and Grace Shearer, RD 1, Washington Boro, whose farm has been in the family since 1882.

(Turn to Page A37)



Drought cuts Pa. alfalfa yields

UNIVERSITY PARK — The 1983 Pennsylvania Alfalfa Growers competition has confirmed what a lot of farmers already knew — the drought cut significantly into yields this year.

This year's Grand Champion Alfalfa Grower, crowned Monday at the Forage and Seed Conference at Penn State, is Donald Hoffer, of Lebanon County.

His yield totals included 9.2 tons per acre of hay equivalent, with 3,328 lbs. per acre of crude protein and more than 9,500 lbs. of total digestible nutrients.

These figures are significantly lower than last year's champion, J. Allen Baker, of Bedford County, who had 10.1 tons per acre, 4,014 lbs. of crude protein and 11,149 lbs. of TDN.

In other activities at the conference:

—1983 Outstanding Forage Spokesman honors went to Richard Burd, Fayette County dairyman.

—Kenneth T. Leath, forage pathologist at the USDA Pasture

Research Lab at Penn State, was honored.

—The Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council elected new officers and directors. New president is I. Hershey Bare, of Lebanon County.

Hoffer's winning alfalfa crop was a 1982 pure stand of DK 130 planted on Hagerstown-Duffield soil. He took off four cuttings, the first on June 1 for silage and the remainder on July 7, Aug. 15 and Sept. 29 for hay.

He attributed much of his winning yield to fertilization with large amounts of manure particularly during the corn phase of the crop rotation.

Reserve champion this year is the Milton Hershey School with 8.3 tons of hay equivalent per acre, with 3,139 lbs. of crude protein and nearly 9,100 lbs. of TDN despite moisture shortages in July and August. The Hershey stand of WL 313 was seeded in August, 1981, on Hagerstown silt loam soil and fertilized according to soil test.

Big Avian effort set this weekend

LANCASTER — With the Avian influenza quarantine now imposed in parts of two states and permit enforcement regulations being enforced in nine states, the federal task force moved into an all-out eradication effort this weekend.

Confirmation of the highly pathogenic strain in a laying flock in Willow Grove, Salem County, N.J. prompted officials to establish a quarantine zone in parts of Salem, Cumberland, Gloucester and Atlantic counties in New Jersey. The flock of 31,000 layers there has been destroyed.

Also during the past week the quarantine zone in Pennsylvania was expanded further west and south to cover 2800 square miles in all of Lancaster and parts of six adjacent counties.

In the depopulation effort, 36 flocks numbering some two million birds had been destroyed by Friday morning.

Permit enforcement regulations to move poultry products out of the quarantined zones -- now established in parts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey -- will be enforced actively in nine states up and down the East Coast -- including Maryland, New Jersey, West Virginia, New York, Virginia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine and, of course, Pennsylvania.

In related agribusiness repercussions from the outbreak, Victor F. Weaver, Inc., New Holland, will begin the temporary layoff of some 200 production and related personnel. The company said the layoff is caused by a drop in the supply of broilers to the firm due to the flu.

Also, during the past week attention had been focused on a flock in the Danville area of Montour County -- a good distance north of

(Turn to Page A38)

Pa. gets 1st FmHA loan okays

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania farmers have received the first approvals of drought emergency loans from the USDA's Farmers Home Administration.

The State FmHA Office in Harrisburg reports that about a half-dozen loan approvals have been received back for farmers who made early application under the drought emergency program.

Seventeen south-central and south-eastern counties were declared drought disaster areas about a month ago, making farmers eligible to apply for the low-interest loans. Three or four counties have since been added and a couple are still pending.

While no statewide figures are available yet in Harrisburg, state FmHA officials report that loan application activity is continuing at all eligible county offices, but the handful of approvals are the first to have been processed completely through approval.

The state office expects that the emergency loan activity will pick up significantly in the new year once farmers have had a chance to determine their exact losses following harvest.

To be eligible, farmers must show at least a 30 percent loss from a normal year's production. Then, they are eligible to borrow up to 80 percent of actual loss up to a maximum of \$500,000.

There is also an allowance for any reimbursable income, such as crop insurance or PIK monies.

Borrowers unable to get loans through regular lending channels are charged an interest rate of five percent on the first \$100,000 and eight percent on the remainder.

Although the deadline for applications is April 11, 1984, farmers have been urged to make application as soon as they can to avoid approval delays.

USDA Sec. John Block emphasizes that farmers would not be adversely affected if portions of the disaster loan program are changed.

"I want those farmers who file early to be assured that if any changes should be made in the authorizing legislation, we will support such changes being made retroactive to the time the disaster designations were made," Block said.

(Turn to Page A37)