



# Lancaster Farming

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## Ag Day luncheon is held

BY KIMBERLY HERR

HARRISBURG — As people across the nation celebrated the first day of spring Tuesday, the people of Pennsylvania were caught up in a dual celebration.

Yes, it was the first day of spring in Pennsylvania too, and the balmy weather was a welcome relief, but it was also Agriculture Day and some 300 people gathered at the Marriot Inn in Harrisburg to dine on Pennsylvania products and hear Gov. Dick Thornburgh's proclamation, marking March 20 as 1984's Pa. Ag Day.

Pa. Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell introduced Frank Wright, secretary of policy and planning, who read the proclamation in Thornburgh's absence.

Ag is Pennsylvania's number one industry, contributing to the health and well being of the Commonwealth," Wright read from the proclamation, which also pointed out that each American farmer can produce enough food to feed 76 people and that agriculture activity generates nearly 900,000 jobs.

Wright also announced that the first 60 checks for Avian influenza cleanup went out on Tuesday.

"We must get Avian influenza behind us and get back on the road to a healthy poultry industry," Wright said.

Also speaking at Tuesday's program was Noah Wenger, Pa. State Senator, who talked of the competition that exists between

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Presenting arguments for purchase of development rights at Tuesday's joint meeting of the Senate and House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee were, (front to back) Pa. Farmers' Assoc. president Keith Eckel, American Farmland Trust president Douglas P. Wheeler, and Maryland farmer Wayne McGinnis.

### In Lancaster County

## Wholesale vegetable auction to begin

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

LEOLA — A wholesale vegetable auction is coming to Lancaster County.

The auction will begin about the first of June to coincide with the strawberry crop. It will be held at Good's Auction, Leola.

Scheduled to be held from four to six days a week, depending on the crops and their volume, it will continue through the summer and fall and include the wide variety of fresh produce being grown in Lancaster County as farmers continue to seek a cash crop to replace tobacco.

To date, more than 75 farmers and 170 acres of production have signed up for the auction, according to David H. Good, of Good's Auction.

"By the time we get going we expect to have more than 200 acres involved in the auction," Good said.

"We'll begin with the strawberries and sugar peas and have radishes and asparagus along with them to get the auction started.

"Then, we'll continue with the other crops as they become available."

Among the crops will be tomatoes, potatoes, sweet corn, carrots, onions, string beans, broccoli, cauliflower, pumpkins, sweet potatoes and the watermelons and cantaloupes.

When the auction begins with the strawberries, it will be held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. As the season continues into the peak of the cantaloupe and watermelon harvest, it will be expanded to six days a week. Selling will begin at 10 a.m.

In addition to signing up farmers for participation in the auction, contacts have also been made with wholesale buyers, both in Lancaster County and beyond.

The auction will be patterned after similar wholesale vegetable

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stating that agriculture and related enterprises employ 900,000 Pennsylvanians, providing the commonwealth with a stable economy. He added that we must give our farmers enough breathing room to operate efficiently.

Before turning the program over to the trio of guest experts, Representative Samuel Morris, chairman of the House Agricultural Committee, outlined some previous legislation aimed at preserving open space, and stated that programs instituted to date are insufficient to get the job done.

Though Pennsylvania's agribusiness accounts for an annual income of more than \$20 billion, a look at statistics from years past reveals an unabated trend toward pushing farmers into the corner.

A look at 1945 "Census of Agriculture" figures shows that the state's 171,761 farmers had access to over 15 million acres of land. By 1978 the number of farms had shrunk to 59,942, with less than 8,800,000 acres of land in use.

Though losses have slowed from the 1.3 million acres-per-year rate between 1967 and 1977, the commonwealth is still losing 16,500 acres of its agricultural land base annually.

The American Farmland Trust's Douglas P. Wheeler expects these losses to continue if no decisive action is taken.

"While we recognize that growth is important," Wheeler stated, "it is a fact that some land is best suited to agriculture, and this land must be preserved to protect Pennsylvania's most important industry."

To this end, the Pennsylvania Farmland Project was launched in

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## All ages enjoy Philadelphia Flower Show



No one is too young to enjoy the Philadelphia Flower Show proves Catherine Patrick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Patrick, Ewing, N.J. Catherine celebrated her first birthday last Wednesday and the flower show was an extra treat. For more photos, turn to Page B14.

## Full weekend of dairy shows, sales and meetings coming up

LANCASTER — A flurry of activity will abound in the dairy circles next week as dairymen prepare for two state spring sales and one breed association annual meeting.

Kicking-off the three days of activities will be the Pa. Holstein Association Annual Spring Show and Sale at the Farm Show Building in Harrisburg. The "Pennsylvania on Parade" event begins at 8 a.m., March 29, with the state show featuring over 480 head of top Holsteins.

Following the show will be a complimentary buffet dinner at 4 p.m. in the Small Arena. The State Bred Heifer Sale is scheduled for 6 p.m., and the State Calf Sale for 10:30 a.m. March 30.

Approximately 105 bred heifers and 208 calves will be sold.

The second item on the agenda is

the 6th International Red and White Spring Show and Sale scheduled for March 30 and 31 at the Farm Show Building. The Red and White Show will follow the Holstein Show and will conclude with a buffet-style dinner, sponsored by the Red and White Dairy Cattle Association, at 7:30 p.m.

The Red and White Sale will begin at 11 a.m. March 31. Seventy-five animals, including cows, bred and open heifers, calves and bulls, will be paraded on the sale block.

Wrapping-up the week's dairy events will be the annual meeting of the Pa. Jersey Cattle Club, set for March 30 and 31 at the Quality Inn, Bedford. Following the board of directors meeting Friday morning, the Jersey enthusiasts will tour three area farms. These include Ralaine Jerseys, of

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