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# Lancaster Farming

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## 2 hog co-op efforts are progressing

**BY DICK ANGLESTEIN**  
 ALLENTOWN and SHAMOKIN — Efforts by Pennsylvania hog producers to form co-ops and acquire packing plant facilities are moving ahead in the Allentown and Shamokin areas.

It was announced at a debtors meeting in federal court in Reading on Tuesday concerning the bankruptcy of the A and B packing plant at Allentown that the proposed co-op of hog producers headed by Henry Gruber, of R2 New Tripoli, is the most likely purchaser of the idled facility.

The hog producer group has made an offer to the A and B owners and is awaiting reply.

In a separate co-op venture by other hog producers, a meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday Oct. 2 at the Golden Arrow Restaurant north of Selinsgrove to discuss acquisition of the Shamokin Packing Plant in Northumberland County.

The Shamokin plant is smaller than A and B, but is still operating. It has complete processing facilities, including a retail store. Its capacity is about 500 hogs and 80 beef a day. The beef line is presently idle.

"The separate efforts are moving ahead on the part of hog producers," according to Howard Goss, of PACMA, of the Pennsylvania Farmers Assn. PACMA is helping to coordinate the efforts and provide assistance on funding applications and other matters.

The two hog producer co-op efforts are independent of each other. (Turn to Page A39)



What a stretch of weather we've been having lately. The corn is drying down; the tobacco curing; and fields and gardens yielding their final bounty. This photo, taken on a

Central Pennsylvania farm by Jack Hubley, paints a rural picture as enjoyable as the recent weather has felt.

### In Harrisburg:

## A lot of ag bills but not a lot of time

**BY DICK ANGLESTEIN**  
 HARRISBURG — There's a lot of pending ag legislation in Harrisburg, but not a lot of time for legislators to take action.

The scheduled three-week legislative session is already one-third spent and there are as many major pieces of ag-related legislation as there were days of sessions.

There was talk in the halls of the Capitol of a possible "Lame Duck" session and every poultry farmer knows the worth of that sort of bird.

Here's a thumbnail sketch of the major ag legislation in this abbreviated session in the State Capitol:

**Milk Marketing Board**  
 Movement began in the State

Senate this week to extend the life of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board — one of two ag agencies reviewed under Sunset regulations. The Senate Bill to retain the Board contains no major changes in its present makeup or responsibilities. Retail price setting powers are kept. There are new stipulations that members must be state residents and milk

dealers must be free of felony convictions for a certain period.

**Farm Show Commission**  
 Also, reviewed under Sunset regulations — periodic appraisal of state agencies to see if they are still necessary — was the State Farm Show Commission. No major changes in its makeup or

(Turn to Page A39)

## Solanco Fair crowns its dairy and livestock champions



Repeating last year's wins were, left to right, Maurice, Paul, and Mark Welk. They captured the grand and reserve grand titles in the Solanco Fair Holstein show.

**BY WENDY WEHR**  
 QUARRYVILLE — Thursday's Holstein competition at the Solanco Fair ended with some familiar faces in the winners' circle. Paul and Maurice Welk of Peach Bottom showed the grand champion and Paul's son Mark exhibited the reserve grand winner.

The grand champion, Welk-View Valiant Tiffany, and the reserve, Yankeeland Milestone Cherry, captured the same two titles last year at Solanco. Jim McCaffrey, judge of this year's Holstein event, described Tiffany as a "top cow who will win a lot of championships."

Tiffany also earned first place in the best udder competition. Paul Welk commented that she is probably the best animal that he and Maurice have ever bred.

As well as being a fine show cow, Tiffany has also proved to be a good producer. In her first lactation she produced 20,670 lbs. of

(Turn to Page A28)



Jeff Byers' entry started his "show" career as a prank pig and worked his way up to the grand championship at the Solanco Fair.