

# Lancaster Farming

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## Faith and Farming Network to be continued

*Mutual help offered for hard times*

MT. PLEASANT — A gathering of Mennonite farmers who came together this week for a Faith and Farming Conference plan to remain in touch through an informal rural network to provide help and support for their fellow stewards of the land experiencing difficulties during these troubled agricultural times.

"We want to keep this network at the grassroots farming level," explains Leon Good, Mennonite farmer from Lititz, Lancaster County, who participated in the conference and led some discussions.

"This network would be a vehicle to provide continuing help and support — primarily moral and spiritual — to farmers experiencing problems."

Good explains it is planned to organize the network at a regional level since the scope and type of problems in agriculture differ from area to area.

"We had farmers from the Midwest and Canada at our conference who farm 1,000 acres and consider themselves small," he explained.

"Our problems may be very different from area to area."

While the network would be continued by farmers themselves, it is expected that the Mennonite Central Committee at Akron, Pa. would be asked to serve as overall coordinator of the continuing effort.

Some 150 Mennonite farmers from throughout the U.S. and

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Mennonite church and a farm located side-by-side in rural Lancaster County are symbolic of the Faith and Farming Conference attended by some 150 Mennonite farmers from

throughout the U.S. and Canada at the Laurelville Mennonite Church Center at Mount Pleasant this week.

## Late-night session moves ag legislation in Pa. Senate

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania legislators, particularly state senators, got a taste this week of something that farmers are all too well familiar with — long hours of work.

Included in a late-night session on Wednesday that kept the Senate in session until the early hours of Thursday was some ag legislation.

The Senate passed the House amendment to the Pa. Milk Marketing Bill, which says that

retail price-setting powers must be studied next year in order for the PMMB to continue in existence after Sunset review.

The Senate's PMMB vote was 47 to 1. The lone dissenter was from Pittsburgh naturally.

Two other ag bills that came over from the House passed by unanimous 48 to 0 votes.

The so-called Soil Conservation Bill contains a major change that gives Attorney General Office

legal support to county conservation districts when they go out and enforce state DER regulations, such as those concerning sedimentation and erosion control.

Previously, county conservationists were pretty much out in the cold when they would enforce such state regulations on housing developments and the owner threatened them with trespass suits.

Also passed was the Fertilizer Bill, which reduces fines for the first offense of falsely representing fertilizer from 10 times the value of the deficiency in the formulation to five times the value. But the law drastically increases fines for second and subsequent offenses to prevent repeat violations.

House concurrence on Senate Sunset legislation to continue the Farm Show Commission was also expected.

## Bedford Countian wins Alfalfa Growers' Program

BEDFORD — J. Allen Baker, a Bedford County dairyman, earned the first place award last week in the 1984 Alfalfa Growers' Program. Winners of the contest, sponsored by the Pa. Forage and Grassland Council, were recognized Nov. 20 at the Pa. Forage Conference at the Mountain View Hotel, Westmoreland County.

Baker's winning yield was 10.2 tons per acre of hay equivalent, 4456 pounds of crude protein per acre and 11,188 pounds TDN. The pure stand of alfalfa was grown on 10 acres of Hagerstown soil.

This is the second year that Baker has won the state-wide alfalfa contest. In 1982 he earned first place with a yield of 10.1 tons hay equivalent, 4014 pounds protein and 11,488 pounds TDN.

Assistant Bedford County Agent John Fair, who certified this year's yield, noted that the yields from Baker's other fields correlated closely with the contest field.

Baker farms about 600 acres, with more than 280 acres in hay.

"He harvested hay every four weeks, beginning May 28th," said Fair. "That was his success, timing himself just about perfectly for the season."

A top dairyman in Bedford County as well, Baker has a herd of 120 registered Holsteins with a rolling herd average of 19,240 lbs. of milk with 725 lbs. butterfat.

Second place winner of the Alfalfa Growers' Program was Wilmer Rohrer and Sons, Lancaster County, with 9.5 tons per acre hay equivalent, 3815 lbs. protein and 9896 lbs. TDN.

Herman Espy, Huntingdon County, had a yield of 8.1 tons per acre, 3531 protein, and 8865 TDN, which earned him the third place award. In 1981 Espy placed first in the alfalfa contest.

In fourth and fifth place were Eugene Moser and William England, respectively. Moser, of

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tons per acre

