

Lancaster Farming

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Pa. markets — Polar Porker prefers 'Hi-Roctane' feed —

3 million Yule trees

BY SUZANNE KEENE

LANCASTER — Just under three million Pennsylvania grown Christmas trees will bolster the holiday spirit in living rooms across the state this year. This year's crop of trees is a particularly good one due to nearly ideal weather conditions throughout the growing season.

"It was a good crop and an ample supply," said Fred Strathmeyer, vice-president of the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers' Association.

The Christmas tree industry in Pennsylvania is healthy and has been growing for a number of years, Strathmeyer said. He attributes that growth in part to ample markets throughout the state, particularly in the heavily populated areas of Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

Most of Pennsylvania grown trees are marketed within the state, but some do go into the metropolitan areas of New York, Baltimore, and Washington.

The close proximity of the markets is especially beneficial to Pennsylvania growers because of rising transportation costs. By marketing their trees close to where they are raised and harvested, growers are able to save money and keep prices down for the customer.

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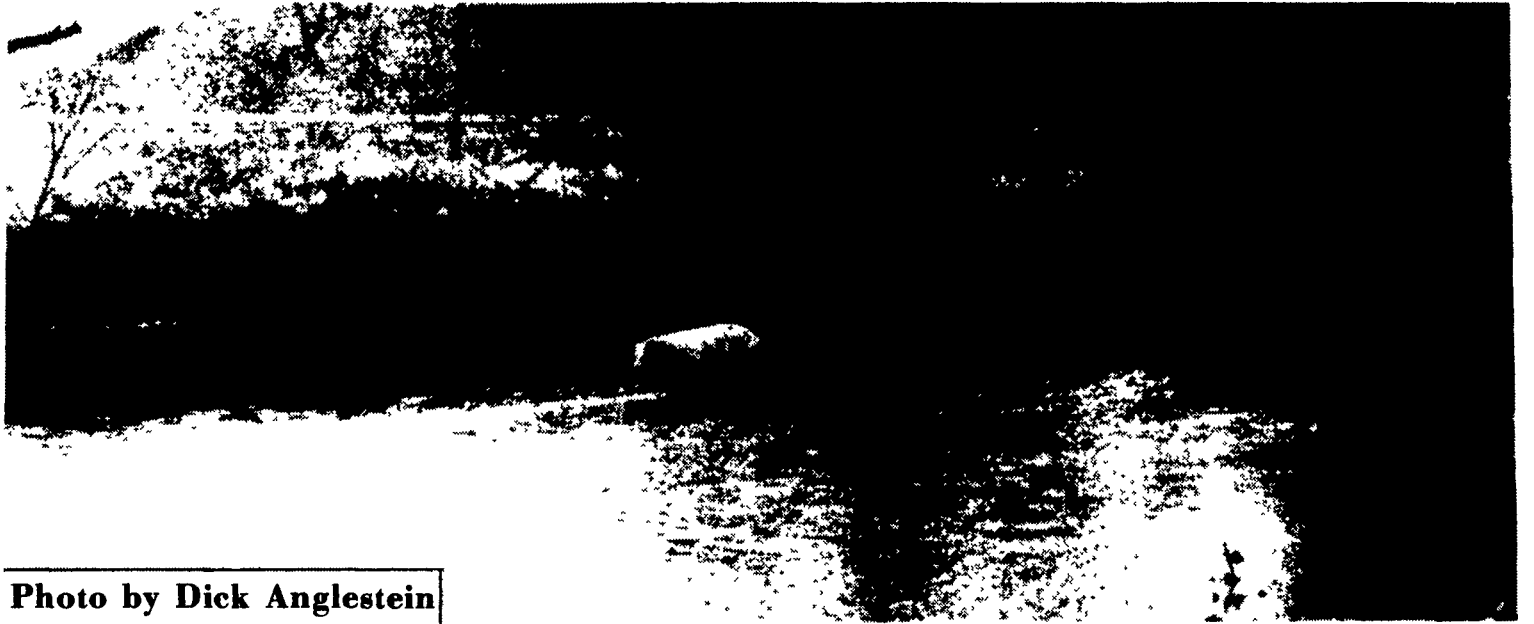


Photo by Dick Anglestein

Sure, it's been mild lately for mid-December, but this porker is really perplexed. I've heard of midwinter swims by Polar Bear Cubs, but never by any Polar Porkers.

But this brood sow on the Lloyd Burkholder farm at R2 Ephrata, Lancaster County, prefers the chilly Cocalico Creek to the adjacent range pasture of her herd-mates.

All day long she stands in the middle of the stream and roots and eats. The family believes she eating the small moss-

covered pebbles on the stream's bottom. Look out Purina, we got a home-grown Lancaster County Hog Chow called "Hi-Roctane."

The big, old white brood sow, who often get the nickname of the "mortgage payers" on many a farm, seems none the worse for her unseasonal daily swim, except for her snout which is a lot redder than usual from continual immersion in the cold water.

More than 1500 expected for No-Till Conference

YORK — More than 1500 no-tillers from a five-state area are expected at the 11th Annual Mid-Atlantic No-Till Conference on

Wednesday at Old Main and Memorial Hall at the York Fairgrounds.

A day-long program of educational presentations by Extension no-till experts will be combined with an opportunity to visit the commercial exhibits of 33 industry sponsors.

And again, farmers will have an opportunity to "Quiz the Experts" in a question and answer session designed to tell you everything you ever wanted to know about no-till.

Chairman of this year's conference is John F. Shearer, Franklin County agent, who will preside over the morning program of presentations.

The morning program, which begins at 9:30 a.m., will get underway with a presentation on "Farmers and the Chesapeake Bay" by Tony Mazzaccaro, of the University of Maryland.

Other presentations:

"Potential Disease Problems in No-Till Corn and Alfalfa" — John

Ayers, of Penn State and Erik Stromberg of VPI.

"Differing No-Till Alfalfa Systems That Work" — Lester Vough, moderator from the University of Maryland; and farmer panel of David E. Brower, Marshall, Va.; and Wayne Harpster, Spruce Creek.

"Cover Crops for No-Till" — A. Morris Decker, University of Maryland.

"No-Till and Other Tillage

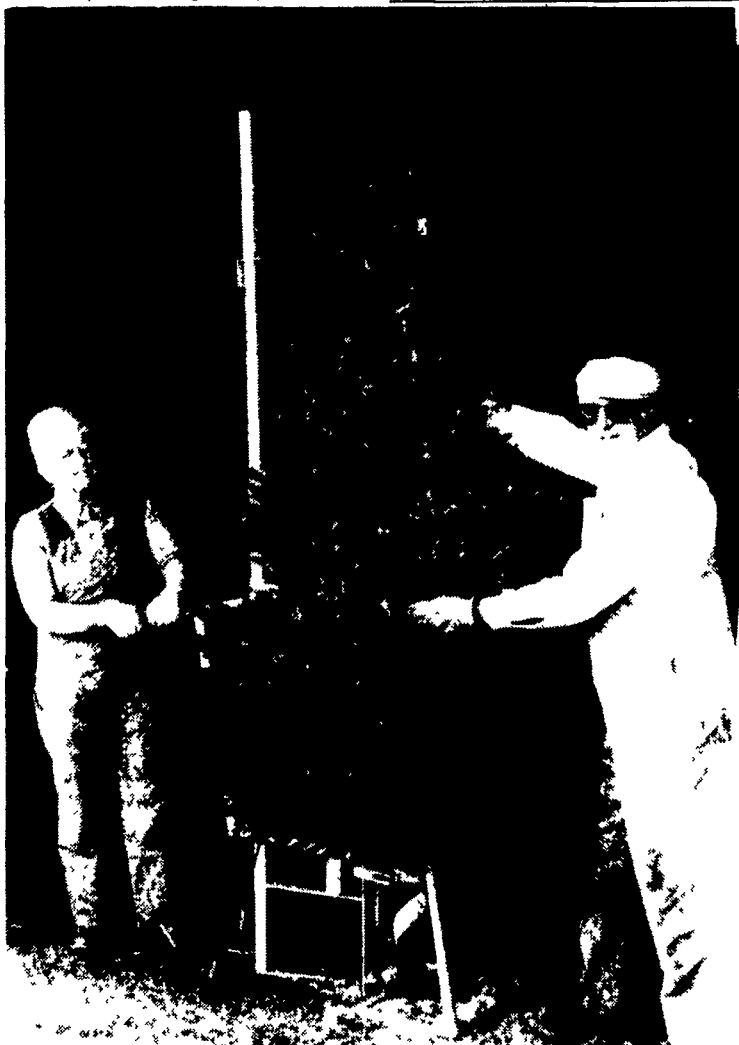
Systems Effect on Yield, Soils ..." — Donald Griffith, Purdue.

"Controlling Perennial Weeds in No-Till Corn" — Nathan Hartwig, Penn State.

"Starter Fertilizers for No-Till Corn" — Douglas Beedle, Penn State.

After a luncheon break, there will be an opportunity to visit the commercial exhibits in Memorial Hall. The exhibits can also be

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Pennsylvania's healthy and abundant Christmas tree crop is now being harvested. Here, Lancaster County growers Hershey and Jean Ressler work together to bore a hole in this tree's trunk so it will be sure to stand straight.

Get in Xmas mood, turn to B Section

The countdown is on. There are only ten more days until Christmas and to help you get in the spirit, Lancaster Farming has some holiday features for you.

Home economist Pheobe Bitler has some Christmas craft ideas to share on page B2 and Home on the Range features holiday recipes.

George Eyth has created a farm village as a tribute to farmers at Christmastime (pages B18, 19) and Christmas tree growers Hershey and Jean Ressler have been busily harvesting and selling their crops (page B14).



Empty ring brings biggest price

In these days of "hi-tech" dairy breeding, the empty sales rings are bringing the biggest prices.

That happened again Thursday at the Guernsey Pavilion when "a choice of female pregnancies" out of Galen Crouse's Excellent cow "Diamond-S Wapa Classy" by the Bova bull brought \$12,700 at the Golden Harvest Sale - the annual Bachus pre-holiday windup to the sales year.

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