

# Lancaster Farming

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Lancaster County resource conservationist, Tim Breneisen, (right) addresses the problems of erosion and sedimentation, during the Lancaster County Conservation District's meeting on Wednesday. Representatives from a broad spectrum of county, state and federal agencies were in attendance.

## Soil and water stewardship stressed at LCCD meeting

BY JACK HUBLEY

LANCASTER — A discussion of the county's continuing soil erosion and sedimentation problem highlighted a Lancaster County Conservation District meeting held at Lancaster's Stockyard Inn on Wednesday.

Addressing the problem was resource conservationist, Timothy Breneisen, who noted that the increase in soil loss through

erosion has paralleled the increased production of corn and other intensively cultivated crops.

"This is why we're pushing no-till farming, either with some kind of crop residue or a cover crop to protect the soil," Breneisen stressed.

Since farming is the single largest category of land use in the county, the majority of erosion and sedimentation problems are of

agricultural origin. But other activities involving earth moving, such as lumbering and development, can cause serious problems if not conducted in a conscientious manner.

All earth moving activities fall under the jurisdiction of Chapter 102 of the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law, the speaker pointed out. The law states that all such

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## Search for origin continues

# Avian influenza discovered in Maryland flock

BY JACK HUBLEY

TANEYTOWN, Md. — Less than three months after the avian influenza quarantine was lifted in Pennsylvania, the lethal H5N2 strain has resurfaced in Maryland. The same virus that was responsible for the depopulation of more than 16 million Pennsylvania fowl at a federal cost exceeding \$60 million was officially diagnosed on Dec. 28, in a mixed flock of chickens and chukar partridges owned by a Carroll County dealer.

But even though the dealer regularly obtains a substantial number of birds in Pennsylvania, according to Maryland state veterinarian Dr. J.C. Shook, no evidence has been uncovered linking Pa. fowl to the current outbreak.

Headquartered near Taneytown, Md., the dealer was selling birds of various species from his truck in Washington, D.C., when he was apprehended by police on Dec. 8, for selling without a license. Since a number of his birds appeared to be ill, police notified the SPCA, who confiscated the entire truckload of birds and submitted the ailing birds to the Md. Dept. of Agriculture laboratory in College Park for testing.

Virus isolation studies conducted at the Department's Salisbury

laboratory confirmed the presence of avian flu, and the virus was then sent to Ames, Iowa, where it was positively typed as the deadly H5N2 strain.

"We don't know the source of the infection at this point," said Dr. Shook, adding that Pennsylvania is certainly a possibility since about three-quarters of the dealer's sources of birds are located in the Keystone state.

"It's logical that there's a cesspool of virus out there that we haven't found yet," Dr. Shook said. "Getting all the virus out of a three or four-state area is not an easy task. I'm disappointed, but I'm not surprised."

The veterinarian said that the dealer's mixed flock of 300 to 500 chickens, ducks, guineas, pigeons and other assorted fowl was depopulated on Thursday. About three or four other Maryland premises known to have received birds from the infected flock will also be depopulated, he said.

"Our main concern now is where the birds came from, as well as any other sales that he might have made," Shook continued. "We have to reconstruct his business dealings, hopefully for the past couple of months."

Though no virus has been traced

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## Salers are this doctor's beef prescription

BY JACK HUBLEY

STATE COLLEGE — The year was 1951 when a young Penn State pre-med student named Gerald Clair found himself sharing Centre County's Spring Creek with royal company.

Fishing his way down the creek one Saturday morning, Clair found himself face-to-face with a distinguished angler accompanied by two men in business suits.

"Son, would you step aside for the President, please?" one of the men queried. And the younger angler knew there could be only one correct answer.

Today that stretch of creek is part of Lyn-Lee Farm, whose owner, Dr. Gerald Clair can still vividly recount the details of his encounter with President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

And as of the fall of 1984, Lyn-Lee has become the home of yet another "President." His name is SRT President 2S3, a ruddy-coated yearling Salers bull. And his nickname "Keystone" may, indeed, prove prophetic, since, as the breed's first fullblood bull residing in Pennsylvania, he may become the keystone of his state's future

Salers herd.

Moving to Lyn-Lee in 1965, Clair began his beef career with Herefords, later switching to Charolais-Hereford and Chianina-Angus crosses. In 1982, Dr. Clair purchased PS Sure Play, a Power Play son, in order to upgrade his herd.

"What we've tried to do is buy the top breeding stock available," says Dr. Clair, whose farm is also home to a number of blue-blooded sheep and swine. As an adjunct to his beef enterprises, Clair hopes to produce some of the state's top club pigs and lambs.

Salers cattle first caught the doctor's eye about a year and a half ago, when Clair noticed that the French breed was consistently in the limelight at the National Western's carcass shows.

The bottom line in the beef business is a carcass," Dr. Clair points out, "so I started doing some research on the breed."

Clair soon learned that Salers were an intermediate-sized breed native to southcentral France. With their heavy, dark red coats,

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Lyn-Lee Farms' owner, Dr. Gerald Clair, (left) feels that fullblood Salers bulls, like his SRT President 2S3, may prove to be a healthy shot in the arm for the beef industry. Herd manager Marty Overholt agrees.