



# Lancaster Farming

VOL. 30 No. 27

Four Sections

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, May 11, 1985

\$7.50 per-Year



An employee of the Penn State Extension Service in Lancaster works with the new computer system.

## Extension computer network running

BY WENDY WEHR

UNIVERSITY PARK — The old excuse of "it's in the mail" won't hold up any longer among Penn State Cooperative Extension workers.

Since mid-April all the Extension offices in the state have been linked by a computer network that "delivers the mail" electronically in just a matter of seconds.

The Pennsylvania Extension Network, or PEN, is an on-line information and communication system that allows personnel in the 67 county extension offices to communicate electronically with their colleagues in other counties and with the extension faculty at University Park.

"The beauty of it is to be able to get messages to your co-workers on the same day," says Larry Yager, area extension marketing agent in Adams County, about the electronic mail system. At the touch of a button he can send out a meeting notice to county agents in

his region or receive a fruit newsletter from Penn State.

But what good is this network to the residents of Pennsylvania?

"The key thing is that the county agents are going to have very much more current and more specialized information," says Graham Bell, project liaison for PEN. The agents will have rapid access to the expertise of Penn State's extension faculty and the most up-to-date agricultural information.

A prime example of the usefulness of PEN occurred a few weeks ago during the Salmonella outbreak in the Midwest.

When Pennsylvania residents swamped their county extension offices with calls about the problem, the local home economists were prepared to answer the public's questions. Through the PEN system, a public statement and a seven-page background report had reached

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## House Ag Committee to get advice from area farmers

WASHINGTON — Pennsylvania and Maryland farmers will have their chance to tell the U.S. Congress what's on their minds, Monday, when a House Agriculture subcommittee takes public testimony in Westminster, MD.

The House Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit and Rural Development will hold a field hearing at the Carroll County Agricultural Center in Westminster, beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Committee staffer Jim Johnson said the committee will focus on credit and soil conservation issues during its three-hour hearings.

Although the committee will accept comments from the audience, most of the allotted time is committed to Maryland and Pennsylvania officials, farm organizations and interest groups.

The list of Pennsylvania officials scheduled to offer testimony includes David Ball, representing

the state Association of Conservation District Directors; George Stambaugh, director and treasurer of Eastern Milk Producers; Melvin Durbrauw, an administrator with Pennsylvania Farmers Association; Cheryl Cook, communications coordinator for the Pennsylvania Farmers Union.

Also, Geary Huntsberger, director of Dauphin Deposit National Bank; Art McAllister, president of the Pennsylvania Inland Fertilizers Association; Marlin Flaharty, owner-operator of a feed operation in Delta, York County; and farmers Paul McPherson of New Park and Ralph MacGregor of East Berlin.

Heading the list of officials representing the state of Maryland will be Secretary of Agriculture Wayne A. Cawley; G. Wallace Caulk, Maryland state director of the Farmers Home Ad-

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## Secretary-designate pledges to continue ag promotion

BY JAMES H. EVERHART

HARRISBURG — The man nominated to guide the state's agricultural policy over the next 19 months says he hopes to continue the emphasis on promotion and marketing established in the first six years of the Thornburgh Administration.

"I think the secretary's job is to promote and market Pennsylvania agriculture," said Richard E. Grubb, senior vice president for administration at Penn State University. "We have to capitalize on markets that are available and not being exploited."

Grubb was nominated as state agriculture secretary Wednesday by Governor Dick Thornburgh. His appointment will have to be confirmed by the state Senate before he can take office.

The nominee had kind words for outgoing secretary Penrose Hollowell, who resigned last month after his conviction on a shoplifting charge in Montgomery County.

"He did a good job in promoting Pennsylvania agriculture," Grubb said of Hollowell. "He was even looking at foreign markets."

Grubb also said he thought Hollowell had left the department in relatively good shape.

"It's a very good department, with excellent scientists, excellent administrators, excellent people," he said. "He also left no major brushfires burning."

Other than his remarks about marketing, the nominee offered few comments about the eventual

direction of the department under his guidance, preferring, he said, to wait until "I'm on the inside."

Grubb, who has two agriculture degrees from Penn State, has held several administrative posts during his 24-year academic career in State College. He was recently chosen one of eight national 4-H Alumni Award winners.

"His background in agriculture and years of management experience make him a sound choice to head this department," Thornburgh said in announcing the nomination.

Grubb still lives on the Centre County farmstead where he was raised. He specialized in agricultural economics at the university, earning his bachelor's

and master's degrees in that discipline, and later went on to earn a doctorate in higher education.

At Penn State, he also served as vice president for administrative services and secretary to the board of trustees from 1971 to 1979, administrative assistant in the office of the president from 1966 to 1970, deputy assistant director for continuing education from 1965 to 1966 and conference coordinator from 1961 to 1965.

Grubb will remain as an ex-officio member of the Penn State board of trustees. He will be on unpaid leave from the administration during his tenure in the Thornburgh Administration, officials said.

## Egg industry regroups

BY JACK HUBLEY

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Efforts by egg producers to regulate their own industry remain derailed this month following the Department of Agriculture's rejection of the proposed egg marketing order.

Following 2½ years of development by United Egg Producers' (UEP) marketing order committee, the order was stonewalled on April 23, when USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) administrator James Handley informed All-Industry Task Force chairman Ed

Houston that the agency had a number of fundamental objections to the proposal.

According to UEP committee chairman Gerald Weber, the order's final draft contains three main provisions:

1. Research and Promotion — The order would establish a mandatory one cent-per-dozen nonrefundable checkoff for advertising, promotion and research.

2. Surplus removal — Producers would be assessed ¼-cent per dozen to fund removal of surplus hens from the market and surplus eggs intended for export only.

3. Quantity Control — Producers would receive an allotment based on their historical egg production. A producer could not exceed his allotment until the entire market for the product increased.

USDA's major objection dealt with this latter provision, according to AMS spokeswoman Jan Lockard, who noted the current administration's market-oriented philosophy with respect to all

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## Next month is Dairy Month

Once again, Lancaster Farming will devote a special issue and a month of intensive coverage to the dairy industry, in honor of National Dairy Month.

We'll look at what goes into dairying, and try to help dairymen find their way in the troubled realities of the Eighties.

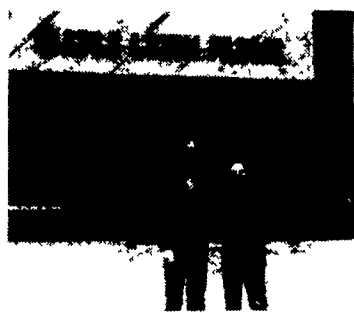
Anyone who would like to submit

a story idea or news release for dairy month should contact the Lancaster Farming News Department by May 20.

The deadline to reserve space for advertising is May 24. For more information on news or advertising, contact us at (717) 394-3047 or 626-1164.

## INSIDE this issue

### Sweating details



Paul and Gail McPherson, successful New Park grain and fruit growers, think success comes from paying attention to "boring details." Turn to page A20 for more on Paul and Gail and their interesting operation

### Rural Electrification

Can you imagine life without electricity? In rural America, the way was paved by the Rural Electrification Administration, which celebrates its 50th anniversary today. For more on the local co-ops which helped light up the countryside, turn to page B2

