

# **Farmers Buy Packing Plant**

**BY MIRIAM GREENFIELD** ebanon Co. Staff Correspondent SHAMOKIN - "It's a great day resident of Pennsylvania Farpers' Association, said Wedesday morning in Shamokin.

Eckel presented a plaque to Eugene Eisenbise of Hershey, president of PennMar Coop, a agriculture," Keith Eckel, cooperative of 64 central Pennsylvania farmers- hog and cattle producers- who recently acquired the Shamokin Packing Co.



Arnold Lueck celebrates 25 years on the job as Lancaster County's agronomy and horticulture expert. In the photo Lueck compares alfalfa samples at the Penn State research farm in Lancaster County. See story page 31

## **2nd Conservation Reserve** Signup Begins Monday

HARRISBURG - Farmers who issed the boat the first time ound will have a second chance hop aboard the Conservation eserve Program as of Monday. ccording to ASCS conservation rogram specialist, Richard ennay, the second CRP sign-up eriod will begin Monday, May 5 nd end May 16.

The goal of CRP is too take the tion's highly erodible land out of iltivation. By removing more an 40 million acres\_ of this arginal land from food roduction in the coming decade, SDA hopes to lower soil erosion hile reducing crop surpluses. Another benefit of the program, ccording to SCS resource conrvationist Richard Heidecker, all be the creation of higher uality wildlife habitat. Since CRP creage must be converted to ermanent vegetative cover, such s grasses and trees, "this resents an ideal time to improve ldlife food and cover on farms," ys Heidecker. Wildlife returns the benefits to rmers through insect control. ome birds eat heir weight in sects daily, Heidecker says. Farmers will receive annual ental payments after Oct. 1 of ach calendar year for acreage hat qualifies. CRP acreage may

not be farmed for 10 years. In addition to annual rental payments, farmers can receive 50

percent of the cost of establishing permanent cover on the land. In determining acceptable bids, USDA divided Pennsylvania into two bidding pools. Pool 1 included the southeastern part of the state, where the maximum acceptable bid was \$65. The remainder of the state was labeled pool 2, with a

"The future of our marketing endeavor hangs in the balance, Eckel said. He was referring to the new role of the farmer, the evolution of the farmer from just producing food, to processing and marketing the food and getting it to the consumer.

We used to think of the farmer's job as a job very distant from the consumer, but Milestone Brands Cooperative, a division of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association has just taken the first step in bringing the farmer's role more in touch with the consumer. From now on, farmers will be processing and marketing as well as producing the food we eat.

The Shamokin Packing Com-pany, which had been producing Chief brand hot dogs, hams, kielbasa, and other processed meat for over 25 years at the Shamokin site, will continue to operate under the ownership of PennMar Cooperative Inc. Penn-Mar is a group of 64 central Pennsylvania hog and cattle producers who have incorporated to control processing and marketing as well as growing food.

PennMar acquired the Shamokin plant April 7 with the cooperation of the Pennsylvania Cooperative Marketing Association (PACMA) and Milestone Brands Cooperative, both divisions of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association. Royal Palmer, director of sale for Milestone Brands Cooperative, which includes PennMar and PACMA, said the plant manager Richard Bobkoskie and the 77 persons who (Turn to Page A22)



### Milk Promotion at Penn State

Ready to show the milk promotion trophy, Joe Paterno (left), coach of the Penn State Nittany Lions, and Donald Duncan, Chairman of the State Advisory Board of the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program, kick off the milk promotion program last Saturday at the Penn State Blue & White football game.

The hand crafted milk can trophy will be awarded each year to the winner of the Penn State-Pitt football game on a rotating basis. In addition, a duplicate milk can will go to the winner of the Penn State-Temple game.

While these large trophies will move from college to college as the winner emerges, small replicas of the milk can will go to each player to keep as part of his college memorabilia.

## **Ardrossan Cow Tops National Sale**

#### **BY MARTHA J. GEHRINGER**

HARRISBURG - They expected her to be the belle of the sale and Ardrossan S U Class Bell didn't disappoint anyone as she garnered the high price of \$4,100 at the National Ayrshire Sale here on Friday, April 25.

This 4-year-old cow, bred and consigned by Ardrossan Farms, Mrs. H.H.M. Scott, Villanova, was purchased by the Don-Sher Farm and Lika Company from Ellenburg Center, NY.

She is the daughter of Oak Ridge Ace's Sultan. As a 2-year old she

produced a record of 17,060 pounds of milk and 705 pounds of fat with a 4.1 percent test.

Her dam, Ardrossan S.V.C Belltime, produced a record of 23,050 pounds of milk and 867

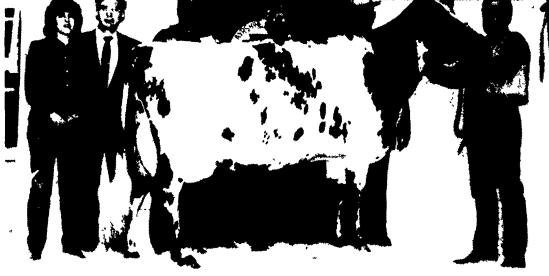
maximum bid of \$60.

During the March sign up, 397 bids were submitted on 13,662 acres, but only 2,463 acres on 93 farms were accepted. This was a long way from ASCS's goal of 82,000 acres during the initial signup.

Nationally, bids were accepted for 838,356 acres on 10,307 farms. The average price for all bids accepted was \$41.82.

Penn State extension economist William McSweeny thinks that the dairy herd buy-out program may well have contributed to CRP's anemic performance, since the buy-out sign-up overlapped CRP's signup period. "Farmers may find they have more time now to give the Conservation Reserve Program serious consideration," McSweeny said.

Those interested in the program should contact their county ASCS offices.



Ardrossan S U Class Bell was the high selling animal at the National Ayrshire Sale with the price of \$4,100. Pictured from left are; Sue Kulp, assistant herdsman at Ardrossan; Heinz Meilke, herd manager at Ardroscan; Don McNeil, buyer; Tom Whittaker, pedigrees; Milton Crosby, auctioneer; and Dale Maulfair at the lead.