

MAY 22 1986

'Century' Farm Owner Supports Ag Preservation

By Everett Newswanger
Managing Editor
WASHINGTON BORO—"Ground pollution is what I'm most worried about," said Martin Heisey, 131 Donerville Road. "Pollution not only from housing development sources but also from forced concentration of animals on fewer acres as a result of land taken out of agriculture. That's one reason why I have become interested in the ag land preservation movement."

A century farm owner, Heisey has deeds that date back to 1848. His grandfather owned the Manor Township farm plus a part of a neighboring farm. And his father made his living on the 30 acres of fertile soil along the Susquehanna River where temperatures are moderated by the river's waters and an altitude that is under 350 feet above sea level. That makes this farm land the lowest in altitude in Lancaster County.

seven children on the farm; put them through school and had a good living off the land by doing hand work," he said. Semi-retired now Mr. & Mrs. Heisey rent out their farm that lies next to a newly-proposed housing development out in the middle of rolling farm country where no sewer and water exists to accommodate such a development.

agriculture while accommodating anticipated development growth is the result of sound land use planning. The Lancaster County Commissioners have adopted such a plan to guide and direct future development. This plan calls for

the preservation of 278,000 acres of prime farm land or about 45% of Lancaster County. To help accomplish this a deed restriction program has been inaugurated to preserve the most productive farm
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This semi-retired farmer, Martin Heisey, who spent a lifetime growing vegetables still plants some of his famous Washington Boro tomatoes each year. Heisey has recently become interested in ag preservation since his, "Century" farm has become threatened by a land development project on the adjoining farm.

Settlement Reached in Suit

BY KATHY GILL
Cumberland Co. Correspondent
FORT LAUDERDALE—A settlement has been reached between USDA and the nation's cattlemen, according to Charles Shaw of ASCS.

USDA to identify which manufacturing or processing plants dairy termination program participants ship milk to. Then, USDA has been directed to monitor CCC purchases from those manufacturing plants, Shaw said.

In remarks made here Monday at the Second Annual U.S. Dairy Forum, Shaw indicated that the National Cattlemen Association is dropping its court case against USDA in exchange for several concessions.

USDA has agreed to perform a survey to determine how many cows, heifers and calves have been slaughtered since the buyout program began, on a month-by-month basis. In addition, USDA will ask farmers what their future sales patterns will be.

In addition, USDA will allow participants to move from the first termination period to either the second or third, should they volunteer to do so. Such action will not result in any additional payments.

Moreover, not more than one third of the animals scheduled for movement in the first period may be shifted in any given state. Finally, 50 percent of all the animals in the U.S. must remain in the first period.

Shaw said that congress had mandated heavy culling for the first and third periods, with emphasis on the first. The rationale was to have a quick effect on commodity credit corporation purchases. Finally, congress has asked

Tests which were done on Tuesday showed a level of 14 picocuries per liter of milk in Pittsburgh and the Harrisburg sample registered 6 picocuries, according to David Mashek, spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Resources (DER). These readings also carry a margin of error of plus or minus 6 to 7 picocuries. Thursday's readings showed
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This recent proposal to the zoning board awoke Heisey and some of his neighbors to the need for ag preservation in their own farm community. "We need to hold out acres of the best farm land from development," Heisey said. "I don't mean a farmer can't sell off a lot to his son or build a retirement home on his land; I mean mass development. Mass development brings mass pollution," he said.

According to the Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board, retaining the best land for

Rabies Marches Northeast

BY JACK HUBLEY
HARRISBURG — Rabies continues its advance through Pennsylvania, with twice as many cases reported this year as during the same period in 1985.

According to Department of Health epidemiologist, Dr. Bobby Jones, 180 confirmed cases were documented as of Monday, compared to 95 last year. "We started seeing cases picking up in October and November of last year," said Jones, who could offer no explanation for the increase.

Raccoons remain the leading carriers in the current epidemic,
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David Norman Maps Goals for Jersey Club

BY GINGER SECRIST MYERS
Adams Co. Correspondent
LIBERTY — David Norman, Normandell Farm, Liberty, is the newly elected president of the Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Club.

Norman took over the reins of the organization last month at its annual meeting in Meadville.

This soft-spoken, third generation Jersey breeder has some definite goals and aspirations for one of the largest state Jersey organizations in the nation.

Chernobyl Update

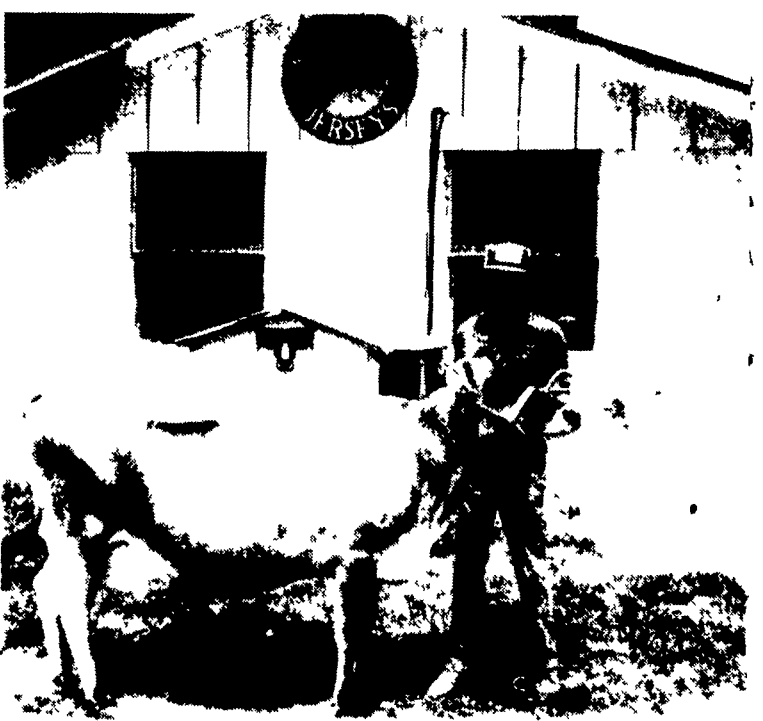
BY MARTHA J. GEHRINGER
HARRISBURG — Traces of radioactive iodine, iodine 131, were detected in milk samples from four areas of the state this week, but the levels pose no threat to the human or bovine populations.

David and his brother Ernest are currently building on the herd established by their father, Howard, and his brother Claude.

The elder brothers established the herd on the home farm which was purchased by their father in 1905. They expanded the original five acre, 12 grade Jersey cow operation, to over 500 acres and an all registered Jersey herd.

Thirty cows was the maximum number milked on the farm until 1957 when an additional 23 stalls were added to the existing bank barn. In two years, these additional stalls were filled with cows from their breeding program.

Setting high goals and striving to attain them is a trait David credits to learning from his parents, Howard Norman and the late Dorothy Norman.
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Newly elected Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Club President, David Norman, poses with a Vermonter daughter who scored 88 percent with records to 13,200 pounds of milk and 660 pounds of fat.

Avian Flu Quarantine Order Amended

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has amended its avian influenza quarantine order to conditionally permit the sale of live birds at Pennsylvania livestock auctions and to remove all restrictions upon the exhibition of live poultry, according to state Agriculture Secretary Richard E. Grubb.

"The department has determined that live poultry can be safely marketed at livestock auctions if appropriate sanitary precautions are exercised and the movements of live poultry are monitored by the department for signs of disease," said Dr. Max A. VanBuskirk, director of the department's Bureau of Animal Industry, in a letter to the state's livestock and poultry auction operators.

The amendments, which become effective today, establish provisions for maintenance of strict sanitary conditions for cages and other equipment used to transport poultry to Pennsylvania livestock auctions. Sale at auction may only occur, "if the livestock auction agrees to accept responsibility to maintain such cages, crates, coops and other conveyances in a sanitary condition and agrees to allow random in-

spection of live poultry marketed at livestock auctions for signs of contagious disease," the letter continued.

A section of the amendment also addresses the removal of all restrictions upon the exhibition of live poultry at fairs and shows. "Adherence to strict sanitary procedures plus required health certification for entries are important safeguards for these activities," said VanBuskirk.

The department imposed its avian flu quarantine order on Feb 5, following detection of avian influenza virus in live bird interstate marketing channels. The department is conducting ongoing statewide surveillance of commercial poultry flocks to detect avian influenza.

"Pennsylvania is continuing to work with surrounding states to insure that avian influenza is not reintroduced into the commonwealth," Grubb said. "These efforts should serve as a clear signal to our trading partners that the Pennsylvania poultry industry will not live with avian influenza," he added.

The last flock of Pennsylvania poultry known to be affected by the H5N2 avian influenza virus was depopulated on April 16.