

## The Joys Of Being A Farmer Boy

Last week you saw the second in a series of six articles written by Daniel Luke Fisher about the feelings a farm boy has while he grows up on the Franklin County family farm. Daniel is a 13-year-old Amish boy with seven brothers who live on a 160 acre farm along the Blue Mountain.

Here's his third article:

The sound of pets on this farm is a very original thing.

First there are ponies, 2 of them, Poncho and Rex. Poncho is a riding pony and Rex is a riding and driving pony. We drive Rex to school.

Rex is a very relaxed, good natured pony who takes life as it comes.

He would like to take a walk through the woods and look at the birds, I bet.

One time we were coming home from school and Rex heard the

creek on the other side of the road so he ambled over and looked to see what the noise was about.

But he sure has his queer moods too. Like sometimes when I put the bridle on him (or try to anyhow). He just clamps his mouth shut, and its pretty hard to open it.

Sometimes when we hitch Rex up to the ponycart, He doesn't want to stand still. So Samuel gets an ear of corn and drops it in front of his nose.

He stands still then!  
Next are the Guinea Pigs, 2 of them. They are both bucks.

We have them out in a pen in the yard where they can eat all the grass they want.

Then there are the rabbits, 2 of them.

They're just bunnies yet. We had 9 of them.

We fed them with an eyedropper at first. After a couple of days they

started dying and as it ended up, we only have 2 left.

We got another batch of chicks about a week ago, 25 of them, 1 died.

They are so cute. We have them in a pen out in the cowstable. Sometimes the cats come creeping up. Slowly...Slowly...Slowly ... "Pounce, Slam, Crash!" Right up against the wire. That frightens the chicks!

Then there are the calves. We've had lots and lots of them already.

We have 2 of them right now, Billy and Jenny.

When Jenny was a little calf and we still fed her with a bottle, sometimes we left her loose for a spin around the yard.

One time she ran up to the meadow. The Heifers ran right through the fence just to get a good look at her.

By Daniel Luke Fisher

## Lancaster Conservation District Seeks Bay Program Cooperators

LANCASTER — Landowners in the Conestoga River Watershed who have not already applied for conservation services and or cost-sharing funds through the Chesapeake Bay Improvement Program are asked to contact the Lancaster Conservation District in Room 6 of the Farm and Home Center at 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, or call them for details at 717-299-5361 or 299-1563. Call them no later than June 15.

The total allotment assigned to Lancaster County is slightly over \$1 million. To date 70 farmers have applied for conservation services and/or cost-sharing funds that can be used to apply Best Management Practices (BMP's) on their farms.

The BMP's referred to include: no-till planting, strip cropping and contour systems, cropland terraces, diversions, grass waterways, streambank protection, manure storage, and a nutrient management program.

To date 22 farms have contracts and plans underway that total

\$411,367. The Soil Conservation Service furnishes all the technical help and design in the program. The design and plans are first approved by the farmer, before a contract is prepared for cost-sharing.

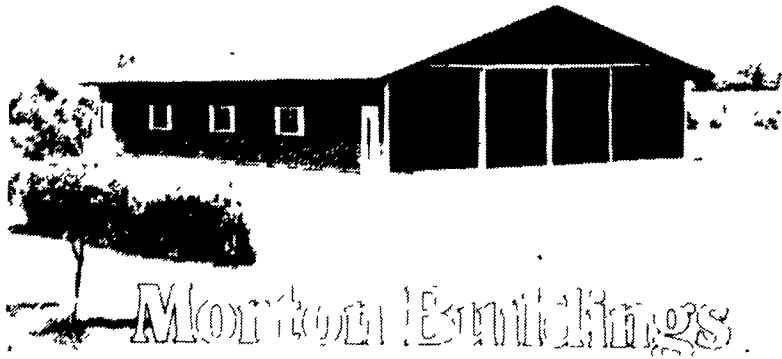
Bob Gregory of the Conservation District also pointed out that landowners in the Conewago Watershed — the small watershed in Northwest Lancaster County — may also participate in the program.

Gregory pointed out that his district plans to complete the final on-farm surveys necessary to make the entire county available for cost sharing through the Chesapeake Bay Program.

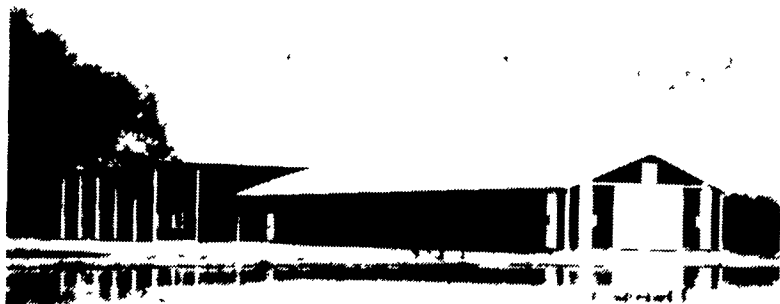
Isaac Wenger, a retired dairy farmer, has been hired to call on farmers in the Pequea watershed. With Wenger's help, the Pequea watershed may qualify for cost sharing by mid-summer, said Gregory.

The Octoraro and Conowingo watersheds will be surveyed by early fall, and the Chickies watershed will be ready later in the year, Gregory said.

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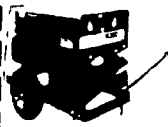
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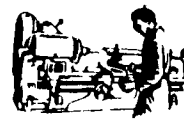
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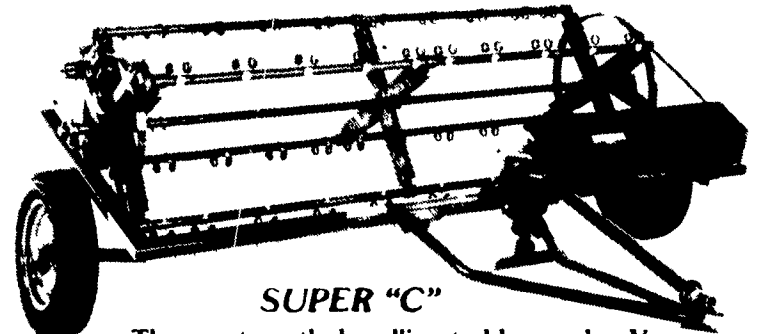


## HAY!

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