

Lancaster Farming

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Ag Progress Continues To Progress

BY EVERETT NEWSWANGER
and
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ROCK SPRINGS — Officially the estimate of the number of people who came here this week to attend Ag Progress Days was set at 65,000 to 70,000. That's down a little from last year because of the rain. But you couldn't tell it on Main Street Wednesday about noon when it seemed like everyone was standing in line to get something to eat.

When farmers, agribusiness people and others just interested in farming weren't eating, they were viewing the water quality exhibits manned by Penn State specialists, watching equipment demonstrations in the field or visiting the 320 commercial exhibits that housed more than \$20 million worth of equipment.

Lieutenant Governor William Scranton visited the state ag event and praised the work being done by the state's agricultural community and its emphasis on the need for clean and reliable water supplies.

"Pennsylvania is rich with natural resources," Scranton said. "One of the most plentiful is its supply of fresh water. Surrounded by this natural abundance it is often easy to take it for granted. The theme of this year's Ag Progress Days — "Water Quality and Your Life" — accurately emphasizes the need for each of us to be aware of the delicate balance between our environment and life styles."

Last week, the "Agriculture for Scranton/Fisher Committee," a coalition of family farmers, animal health professionals and representatives from agribusiness, announced their endorsement of the Republican ticket. In making the announcement, the group said, "Bill Scranton is the only candidate who has demonstrated a sincere interest and understanding of the issues facing agriculture in our state."

Agriculture is the largest industry in the Commonwealth employing over one million and generating \$35 billion in revenue annually. During Scranton's term as Lieutenant Governor over 50 pieces of legislation designed to encourage family farms, market Pennsylvania's agricultural

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On Main Street at Ag Progress. While the weather could have been better, the crowds still came to see the new equipment and advanced technology on display.

Drought Hay Fund

The 1986 Summer Drought Hay Fund has received a total of \$11,825 to date. So far, \$5,400 has been used to buy good second hay for donation and \$410 has been used to help support transportation.

If you want to contribute to this drought hay fund, make your checks payable to 1986 Summer Drought Hay Fund. Then send your check to Lancaster Farming newspaper, 22 East Main Street, P.O. Box 366, Lititz, PA 17543, attention Hay Fund or attention Editor.

Westmoreland Co. Farmer Sees Drought Conditions For Himself

BY MARGIE FUSCO
Cambria Co. Staff
Correspondent

The publicity may have died down, but Bob Gray's concern hasn't. The Westmoreland County farmer attracted media attention when he traveled to the South with a load of hay on August 5 and 6 to

view drought conditions first-hand.

"I guess it all started when I decided to give some hay," he recalls. Because of declining market prices, Gray had cut back on his beef and hog operation this year and found himself with surplus hay. When the call went out from the Pennsylvania Farmers Association for hay donations for the drought-stricken southeastern states, Gray was quick to respond.

But, he admits, he was skeptical. "I wondered if it was as bad as I'd seen on TV. And I was leery about whether the donations were going where they were needed." So he

asked to go along with a load of hay that left Westmoreland County, bound for the Charlottesville, Va., area. What he saw there removed any doubts he had.

"The 400 bales of hay we took were distributed evenly, with 50 bales going to each of 8 farmers. At first I took a look around and said, 'You don't seem to be as hard hit as Georgia and South Carolina.'" In response, the Charlottesville farmers took him to a farm where the corn, planted in May, stood just 10 inches high.

In an average year, he told me, he'd get 650 round bales on the first

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Mike King Works to Overcome Physical Limitations, Help Others

BY EVERETT NEWSWANGER

Managing Editor

Editors Note: In 1978 Mike King, a Chester County farm boy, had a motorcycle accident that left him a paraplegic. The struggle to mature under added pressure of physical limitations was climaxed last summer when King took a challenge to travel by wheelchair across the United States from Alaska to Washington D.C. and turned this challenge into a personal triumph.

We heard last week that Mike had exchanged his wheelchair for the seat of a Stiegl tractor pulling earth-moving equipment to build a golf course on one of the King family farms located west of the Octorara High School. We took the opportunity to visit with Mike and learn how a paraplegic and his family handle farm life with this kind of physical limitation. So here is an update on "The Mike King Story".

Q. Mike, so we can learn a little more about you, would you introduce your family to our readers?

A. My parents names are Paul & Dorotny King. They grew up down there in Cochranville, and they have made it their home for 28

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Mike King finds he can drive a tractor even though an accident left him with physical limitations.

Dairy Farm Recognition

BY EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

STATE COLLEGE — A farm recognition program to enhance the consumer's view of the wholesomeness of milk has been operating in New York state for the past three years. And now Stephen Spencer, extension dairy specialist at Penn State, wants to begin a similar program in Pennsylvania. Called the "Dairy of Distinction" program, dairy farms are judged by their appearance from the roadside. And the farms that look nice are awarded a colorful farm sign and a certificate. Lancaster Farming newspaper has joined Dr. Spencer in the desire to see such a program designed and put into operation in Pennsylvania.

Sue Renolds, executive secretary of the New York program, told Lancaster Farming this week that 287 farms have received the distinction and hold current award status. The state is divided into 10 districts. Each local district has a committee to act as judges and to present awards. The awards are often presented at June

Dairy Month promotions, dairy princess pageants, or at other times when media coverage can be obtained.

The farms of recipients are checked each year to assure the appearance continues to give a pleasing impression to the consumer's of milk who drive by the farm.

A volunteer state committee forms the backbone of the program to give direction and to insure a continuation of the program. Because of the volunteer nature of the state organization and the local committees, the work is accomplished with a very low budget supported by milk promotion funds.

In calling a meeting of dairy leaders and other interested persons, Dr. Spencer said, "We believe that numerous Pennsylvania farmers deserve credit for their work and effort. In Pennsylvania we have some of the more picturesque farms in the country."

A representative of the New York program is scheduled to attend this meeting.