

Lancaster Farming

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Dr. Robert Damm

DHIA Head Analyzes Program; Looks To The Future

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Editor's Note: In a special interview this week, we look into the workings of the Pennsylvania DHIA Program through the eyes of Robert Damm, DHIA director of marketing and field services. Damm came to the Pennsylvania DHIA Program earlier this year and has already put into place some new management practices that have been widely accepted as extremely good for the state association.

We asked Bob Damm about the present services offered by DHIA and where he sees the program advancing in the future. Here are our questions and his answers.

Q. So our readers can get to know

New Futures Market Analysis Column Begins

A new futures market analysis column begins this week right under our normal futures market daily closing bids report. These market reports for grains and livestock are provided by the Pennsylvania Farmers Association ACRES program. A phone number to obtain more information is given with the report.

you a little better, would you tell us about your professional experience and background?

I guess the adult years are essentially separated in two segments one of which is academic, and the other is production agriculture. I have a PAMA and a PHD in ... English and English and philosophy respectively; about five years teaching experience at the university level, a couple state side and one Canadian after which I operated 312 acres and a 60 to 65 cow dairy with 150 total cattle since 1972 in Wisconsin. During that time activities were not limited to the farm but a high level of involvement in coop directorships, cooperative training for young couples and activities of that nature that I was engaged in.

Q. We see DHI. We see DHIR. We see DHIA. We see AM-PM. Could you explain the difference between the programs, what they are and the programs DHIA offers dairymen?

I think one principal undergirds them all and that is the maximum amount of accuracy possible under the circumstances. We're quite unwilling to sacrifice in any one of them. Programs differentiate really on the basis of the individual preference of the dairy operator. DHIR, for example, is actually a breed sponsored program. People with registered cattle who have a

high degree of interest in pedigrees and marketing and things of that nature will select DHIR because it brings them closer to the activities of the respective breed associations be it holstein, guernsey, or jersey. There is no functional difference between the testing that goes on in DHIR and that which goes on in DHIA. There

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Farm Show Maps And Schedules Appear This Week

For your convenience this week, the Farm Show schedules of events and meetings are published on Pages B23 to B26. In addition, you'll find expanded floor plan maps of exhibitors' booths and where to find the farm products, home economics exhibits and the livestock barns.

While we plan to publish these pages next week in our annual special Farm Show issue, you may want to pull these pages out now and get them ready to take along with you to the Farm Show.

Of course next week, we also plan to present the FFA Keystone Farmer resumes and other Farm Show features. As you know, the Farm Show dates are Sunday, January 11 through Friday, January 16.

Remembering The Top Stories Of 1986

As we end the old year, let's take a look at some of the stories that appeared on the pages of Lancaster Farming. While it's impossible to mention all the top stories here, maybe by thinking about one or two news items each week, you will remember the year as it relates to your own experience. So here is our mention of the top farm news stories of 1986.

JANUARY 4

The cost of American agricultural products are in line with world competition according to USDA's economic research service. Unlike the popular belief that land and labor costs make American ag products too high priced, USDA found that in many cases the advanced technology really gave U.S. farmers the advantage.

JANUARY 11

For the first time since the final quarantines were lifted on October 4, 1984, the avian influenza virus surfaced in a Pennsylvania poultry flock. The outbreak was discovered in a Snyder county broiler flock.

JANUARY 18

The 70th Annual Farm Show brought together top entries in all kinds of Pennsylvania produce and livestock. Governor Richard Thornburgh opened the show by becoming the first person to use the brand new Penn Pages computer hookup between Penn State and the Extension offices.

JANUARY 25

The herd buyout program was explained to dairymen at the York county 4-H center. Dairymen had the month of February to decide their fate for the next five years.

FEBRUARY 1

A study conducted for the Mid-Atlantic Milk Marketing area showed that women consumers estimated the fat content of milk to be 36 percent while men think it's only 26 percent fat. So MAMMA launched an advertising campaign to puncture that myth and win back the consumers to drink more milk.

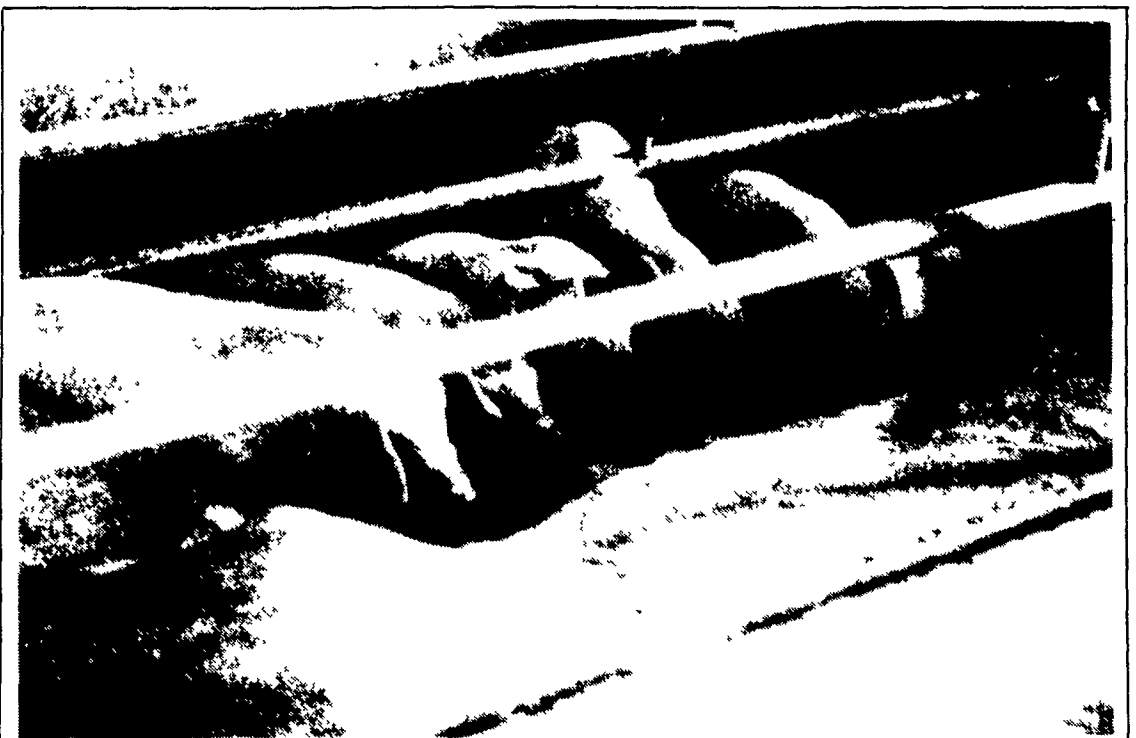
FEBRUARY 8

The Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association honored two farm couples during their annual meeting in Grantville. Harry and Ella Mae Wasson, Centre Hall, and Jeffrey and Nancy Hillegass, Berlin, received the Outstanding Young Farmer Award.

FEBRUARY 15

Nearly half a million FFA members across the country were promoting FFA week. This year's theme was "Leaders For The New Fields Of Agriculture".

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Farm Babies In New Year

With the new year, we think of new beginnings. And baby animals around the farm are the epitome of that which is excitingly new. What's more fun than watching a mother sow and her piglets.

In this photo, we caught the feeding-time action in the barn of Gerald and Judy Long and family, RD2, Annville. The Longs have a whole barn full with 240 piglets that have arrived for Christmas between December 20 and 26. And by the time January 31 is here, they expect 500 more.

You can be sure a lot of new, exciting things are happening at their farm. And this also gives the Lancaster Farming staff a chance to wish you and your family a lot of new and exciting things to happen around your farm in the new year, too.