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Lancaster Farming

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Governor Proclaims Dairy Month



Editor's Note: Governor Casey proclaimed June Dairy Month this week in Harrisburg. Lancaster Farming will do this next week with a special issue. The text of the Governor's proclamation follows. You will need to wait a week for our special tribute.

Pennsylvania's dairy industry makes a vital contribution to the state's economy while its products help to insure all citizen's health and vitality.

Nearly 14,000 dairy farmers are responsible for the well-being of this key industry with large capital investments in some 720,000 dairy cows. Last year the commonwealth's dairy farms and 220 milk processing plants produced nearly 10 billion pounds of milk establishing Pennsylvania as the fifth leading milk-producing state in the nation. Milk production alone contributed over \$1.3 billion to our economy. Indeed milk is the state's official beverage.

Also, Pennsylvania milk serves as the basic ingredient in many other wholesome foods, which are important to the state. The commonwealth ranks second

Governor Casey nationally in the production of ice cream, milk sherbet and frozen dairy products; fourth in Italian variety cheese; fifth in butter and ice milk; and sixth in the manufacture of all varieties of cheese. This food group provides all citizens with a valuable source of nature's most important ingredients such as calcium, protein, and riboflavin. In addition, nearly 40,000 Pennsylvanians are employed in the manufacture and processing of these dairy products.

In recognition of our great dairy industry, I, Robert P. Casey,

(Turn to Page A39)

Guernsey Breeders Convene

BY BETH NESBIT

Indiana Co. Correspondent

PITTSBURGH — In the hustle of America's most livable city last weekend, the American Guernsey Cattle Club was holding its 110th annual convention in the Sheraton Hotel at Station Square. The convention was highlighted by the National Convention and Heifer Sale on Saturday evening.

Convention-goers and spectators gathered in the Sheraton's grand ballroom to witness the selling of 31 quality Guernsey animals. These animals averaged \$2,175.

The first lot to enter the sale ring was Yellow Creek Fayette Boone-ET. Consigned by Truman Weaver of Yellow Creek Farm, Goshen, Ind., the bull was born Sept. 2, 1986. The Dutch Mill Telestars Fayette son sold for a final bid of \$10,500 to a syndicate representing Tri-State Breeders.

A full sister to Yellow Creek Fayette Boone-ET commanded the top bid for the females. Yellow Creek Fayette Brook-ET was also bred and consigned by Weaver. She sold for \$8,250 to Jerry Emrich, Plain City, Ohio, and Michael Hurst and Truman Weaver of Goshen, Ind.

Boone and Brook are the

(Turn to Page A28)



Welcoming the 1987 National Guernsey Queen Sheri Kohler (left) is Pennsylvania Guernsey Queen Tina Yaple.

Prospects May Improve For Tobacco Growers

BY JACK HUBLEY

Following anemic prices for the 1986 tobacco crop, planting is off to a slow start in Lancaster County. "Definitely we're going to be cut back in acreage," says Lancaster County Extension director Jay Irwin.

Tobacco proved to be a hot item in 1985, when a newly organized auction system brought buyers and sellers together at a central location for the first time in 40 years, and prices for the Maryland Type 609 tobacco grown here averaged \$1.15 per pound.

But one year later dreams for an even better season went up in smoke, with 609 averaging only 45- to 50 cents. Most sources attributed the drop in price to two factors: poorer quality tobacco and a glut

of cheap, government-owned burley tobacco left over from the 1983 growing season that soaked up demand for the Pennsylvania crop.

Poorer quality was definitely a factor, according to John Yocum, a tobacco expert at Penn State's Southeast Research Farm located in Landisville. "Our tobacco here at the station was one of the poorest crops we've had in a long time," says Yocum, noting that wind and hail storms shredded much of the leaf.

Two other factors that combined to lower quality were an etch virus that caused a burn-type injury and air pollution. Yocum said ozone and sulfur dioxide are the two air pollutants that spotted leaves at the station.

(Turn to Page A21)

Farmers And Forests May Benefit From Manure Project

BY JACK HUBLEY

NEW HOLLAND — If, as experts say, livestock manure contains a wealth of nutrients, then Lancaster County is blessed with an embarrassment of riches. The state's leading county in dairy, beef, hog, poultry and egg production, Lancaster also pumps out more than five million tons of manure annually, or enough to fertilize 349,000 acres of cropland.

The problem is that Lancaster County has only 330,000 cropland acres, of which some 53,000 acres are used to grow alfalfa. Practically speaking, that means the

county is 72,000 acres short of being able to spread its "wealth" at recommended rates.

So what's a farmer to do with his surplus? The answer to that question may be no farther away than the nearest woodlot, according to Tim Breneisen, of the Lancaster County Conservation District. Not only is 17 percent of Pennsylvania under trees, says Breneisen, but much of Penn's Woods is actually adjacent to cropland, making it a convenient repository for livestock manure. Since much of this forestland is low in nutrients, it follows that manure

could boost timber production, Breneisen points out.

With the help of the Department of Environmental Resources' Bureau of Forestry, the district plans to put these theories to the test beginning June 22, when they'll be spraying liquid hog manure on a series of forested test

(Turn to Page A35)

Opportunities For College Ag Graduates Exceeds Supply

BY SUZANNE KEENE AND MARTHA J. GEHRINGER

LITITZ — Although the media has been painting a grim picture of the ag economy, this year's college graduates with agriculture degrees face a rosy future in the job market.

"The job situation in agriculture is excellent," reports Dr. Glenn Patterson, acting associate dean of agriculture at the University of Maryland. "A great number of them are finding jobs in their specialty." Even though farmers are having a hard time, the rest of agriculture is thriving and jobs are available, he said.

College officials estimate that 75 to 90 percent of this year's college of ag graduates will find jobs in their area of expertise. Delaware Valley College reported that 100 percent of their 1986 ag graduates who entered the job market within six months of graduation are currently employed or enrolled in graduate school.

Other schools report similar success, with Penn State University estimating 75 to 90 percent placement within three months of graduation and a significantly higher percentage at six months.

(Turn to Page A22)



Dennis Roland (left) and his father Amos pull tobacco plants from their beds on the family farm near Landisville. A tobacco farmer for 38 years, Amos Roland decided to cut his Type 41 tobacco acreage by 40 percent this year in light of weakening demand for chewing tobacco.