

Lancaster Farming

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Four Sections

\$8 50 Per Year



These farmers wait in line to sell their vegetables and fruit at the Leola Produce Auction Thursday morning. The auction brings producers and buyers together so that the locally-grown crops

can get to farmers' market stands and small supermarkets. About 600 farmers sell regularly at the market to about 75 local buyers.

Vegetable Plot Makes \$20,000 Gross Per Acre Equivalent

BY
EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

LEOLA — Vegetables for tobacco. That sounds like a pretty good trade when you consider the price of tobacco this year, and the income generated from the Elanco Adult Farmer Tomato Test Plot last year.

Don Robinson and Phil Ogline, vo-ag instructors, picked, weighed

and kept stringent records on the production from 1/10 of an acre that used a Trickle watering system. When the harvest was in, these industrious teachers had the equivalent of 55 tons per acre. And when they figured gross sales at a modest \$4.50 for a 25 pound box, the value was \$20,000 per acre.

"I've told this to farmer meetings all last winter," Robinson said. "But I don't think many of

them believed me. But it's true. We paid for the whole Trickle irrigation system in the first year."

Robinson and Ogline along with

Steve Fisher, representative of the FMC Agricultural Chemical Group, hosted about 100 farmers at an all-day field trip around the

New Holland area to show what can be done with vegetables and other field crops when the proper
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RCMA Plans For Over-Order Prices

BATAVIA, N.Y. — Board members of the National Cooperative Marketing Agency met yesterday, July 10, to determine the feasibility of implementing and the level of over-order prices.

Judy Brown, spokesman for RCMA, noted that RCMA will be negotiating for premium prices on September milk. She explained that it became necessary to push the target month for negotiating back to September from August to finalize the work needed to issue checks to dairymen. She estimated total sign up in the Northeast at 93 to 94 percent.

Harold Ely, coordinator for Pennsylvania, said he has been receiving eight to 15 calls per day requesting contracts for RCMA membership. The interest in RCMA increased as the July 10 deadline neared, he added.

The Mid-Atlantic Cooperative Milk Marketing Agency, South-

ampton, Pa., an organization similar to RCMA and comprised of Federal Order 4 milk cooperatives, will be scheduling a meeting soon to discuss possible over-order prices, explained Paul Hand, a member of the management committee. The MACMMA board will then decide if they will take similar or identical action as RCMA. Hand said that whatever action the board decides on will be independent of RCMA's action.

By bargaining for over-order prices, Hand feels the dairyman will receive two benefits: an immediate boost in their prices as well as a long-term message that MACMMA is trying to stem the loss of producers.

He anticipates that MACMMA will be negotiating for over-order prices due to the tightening milk supply in Federal Order 4.

"Our orders exceed available supplies one to two days a week,"

Hand explained. The general manager of Atlantic Dairy Cooperative, Southampton, Pa., noted the Cooperative has an adequate milk supply on a seven-day basis. However, to meet its milk orders, the Cooperative has shifted milk from its manufacturing facilities. Hand estimates the facilities are running at half-capacity.

"This fall there are going to be shortages," Hand stated, citing the present shortages despite reduced fluid demand. "We will have a real problem when schools reopen and fluid demand increases," he said.

Hand noted that Federal Order 4 has not been impacted by reduced milk supplies as severely as the New England area.

Ely explained that supplies in Federal Order 2 are very tight. He expects the market administrator to implement a milk call provision at any time.

Animal Welfare Discussed At ADSA-ASAS Meeting

BY JACK HUBLEY

NEWARK, Del. — Animal welfare guidelines have already been drawn up for agricultural research institutions, and similar guidelines for production agriculture may not be long in coming, according to Dr. Stanley Curtis, professor of animal sciences at the University of Illinois.

Addressing a joint meeting of the American Dairy Science Association and the American Society of Animal Science held this week

at the University of Delaware, Curtis said that the current guidelines grew out of agriculture's response to growing public concern over animal husbandry practices on the farm.

Last May a group of 20 representatives from ag industry, government and the scientific community called the "Consortium to Develop a Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teach-

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\$100 Million Bond Issue Proposed To Save Farmland

HARRISBURG — Thanks to legislation enacted late last week, Pennsylvania may have \$100 million to spend on farmland preservation.

Members of the General Assembly agreed to put the subject of agricultural land preservation before the voting public in the form of a referendum to be conducted in the state's general election in November. The referendum will seek approval of a \$100 million bond issue to underwrite the cost of purchasing conservation

easements to protect farmland from development.

"The loss of farmland to development is the single biggest threat to the largest industry in Pennsylvania," said Rep. Samuel Morris, chairman of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. "It's time the state took action to deal with that threat and preserve agriculture's leading role in Pennsylvania's economy."

A conservation easement is the difference between the value of land used for agriculture and that

same land's value if it were developed. In Lancaster County, where 48,000 acres have been protected by the county's Agricultural Preserve Board, easement values are estimated at between \$300 and \$2,000 per acre. The preserve board, however, is authorized to spend only \$250 an acre.

Rep. Morris noted that those counties with preserve efforts already in place would still qualify for the new funding, should the referendum pass. He stressed that the referendum is a vote on the

bond issue only, and does not address the specifics of the proposed conservation easement program, the details of which are spelled out in House Bill 442 and its counterpart in the Senate, SB 156.

To receive funds, counties would apply to an Agricultural Conservation Board established by the State Department of Agriculture. Money would be distributed according to two criteria. One-half the funding would be distributed on the basis of a county's

proportion of the realty transfer tax paid the prior year.

The second half of the funds would be distributed based on a county's proportion of the state's total agricultural production. Morris said this portion of the funding requires matching funds and favors those counties with higher production. Counties accounting for 2 percent or more of the state's total ag receipts would receive \$8 in state funds for every dollar the county contributes. All other counties
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