

# PA Administration Asks Voters To Support Farmland Referendum

BY EVERETT NEWSWANGER  
Managing Editor

HARRISBURG — "Let me say very directly and specifically that Secretary of Agriculture Boyd Wolff and the Casey/Singel administration are asking the voters of this great commonwealth to vote yes for farmland on November 3, 1987, referendum."

This direct quote came from Lieutenant Governor Mark Singel as he addressed the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Farm Cooperatives in Harrisburg Tuesday evening. "We feel very strongly that a successful referendum where the voters give us the authority to raise \$100 million for the farmland preservation program will insure the integrity of the agricultural industry for years to come," Singel said. "I want to impress upon you that the agricul-

tural industry remains our number one industry and the governor has set aside a special session of the legislature to deal with the difficult issue of tax reform and municipal finance."

It would seem one of the best things we could do for Pennsylvania farms would be to ease the tax burden somewhat with a more equitable system of property taxation. "We feel there are very few industries that exemplify family life in Pennsylvania like the family farm does. And for the sheer value of that wholesomeness in this kind of industry we want to do all we can to preserve our farms," Singel said. Singel said that 47 of the 67 counties in Pennsylvania are rural and that 3.6 million people live in the rural area to give the state the largest rural population in the country.

In the awards ceremonies, Russ

Redding received the 1987 PAFC Master Educator Award. Redding serves as coordinator of vocational student organizations. In this roll he works with seven student groups including FFA dealing with regional, state and national activities. The PAFC Distinguished Service Award went to Robert Pardoe. Pardoe currently serves as treasurer of PAFC and farms 290 acres with his son Bob Jr. They have 60 milk cows. He is known for his dedication to the dairy industry and the dairy marketing cooperative Dairylea. The dinner meeting was held in the Sheraton West.



Bob Reich (right) last year's winner presents the PAFC Distinguished Service Award to Robert and Gertrude Pardoe.

# Financing Of Agriculture To Challenge Farm Policy Makers

BY PAT PURCELL

HARRISBURG — Due to radical changes in the agricultural industry and the federal budget, the financing of agriculture into the next century will pose new and difficult challenges to farmers, bankers and legislators. Meeting these challenges will demand a wisdom in policy making not previously shown, according to Jim Webster, speaker at the Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives' annual meeting held in Harrisburg on Tuesday.

This was the consensus of all the speakers assembled at the annual PAFC gathering to discuss the future of the Farm Credit Corporation, federal farm programs and agricultural financing.

"The policy challenges facing elected representatives will demand a degree of wisdom which has not been evident in the past," said Webster.

"Looking down the road what is the scenario for agriculture in the United States?" asked Webster. "In 1987 we must realize that not everyone in agriculture will survive into the 21st century."

Webster founded Webster Com-

## Wolff Speaks To Farmers

BY MAJORIE KEEN  
Chester Co. Correspondent

ATGLEN — "Saving farmland is good for all Pennsylvanians. We will all benefit eventually," Boyd Wolff, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, told nearly 200 members and guests of the Chester-Delaware County Farmers Association last Saturday evening. Wolff was featured speaker at the association's fall banquet held at Octorara High School.

Urging the audience to vote

munications Corp in Washington, D.C. in 1981 to provide an information source about Washington for the food and agricultural industry. One of the newsletters he publishes is 'The Agricultural Credit Letter'. He also writes for Agri-Finance among other publications. He has appeared on the 'McNeil-Lehrer News Hour' and is a regular commentator on 'Market to Market'. His articles have appeared in newspapers such as the New York Times, The Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times and the international newsletter, Agri Europe.

### The Future of Farming

Radical changes in American farm policy will dictate the future of agriculture in the United States. Six years ago when Reagan assumed office, his goal was to remove the influence of govern-

ment in agriculture. Reagan wanted to phase out farm programs putting money into developing export markets. In the four years prior to that under the Carter administration, \$16 billion was spent on all the farm programs over the four-year span. But now the USDA would be relieved to hold the agricultural budget to \$16 billion a year. According to Webster, the cost in the last two years was \$43.5 billion.

"It is inevitable that government farm programs will be decreased and that is already laid out in the farm bill itself, largely due to the plans to reduce the federal deficit. By 1987 \$1.2 billion will be cut from the farm program, by 1988 \$1.9 billion will be cut and by 1990 \$2.7 billion will be cut," said Webster.

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## Writer Joins LF Staff

LITITZ — Lisa Hamm has joined Lancaster Farming as its newest staff writer. She brings with her a solid background in journalism having worked most recently as associate editor for two national building industry magazines based in Chicago. Her duties there included writing feature articles and day-to-day production tasks.

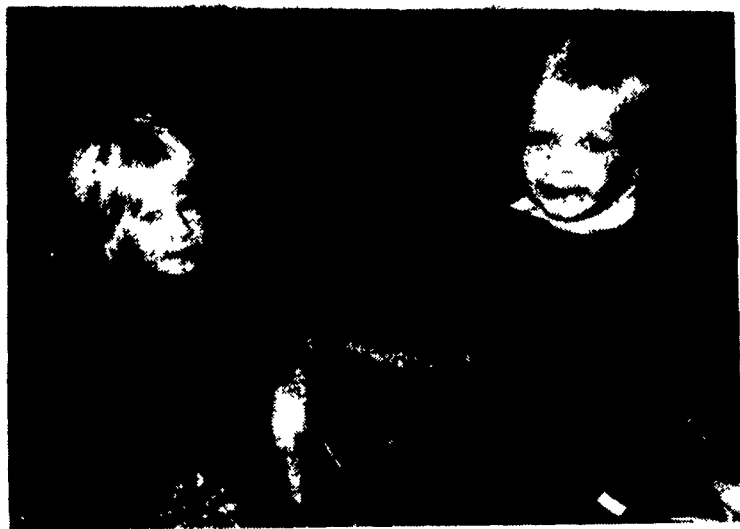
Lisa is a graduate of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill., with a journalism degree and farming has become an integral part of her life.

She will soon marry Philip Risser, a local farmer and agricultural engineer and son of Lancaster Farming's well-known columnist, Ida Risser. Lisa has been receiving an orientation to farming this summer by attending dairy cow auctions and helping to bed and feed the farm's Holsteins.



Lisa Hamm

Lisa spends her leisure hours sewing, creating crafts, and cooking.



Jersey enthusiast came in all sizes and ages to this year's Pa. State Jersey Sale. Here Nichole Losch, age 4, and Joshua Kenny, age 18 months, visit with a consignment that's just their size. See the full story by Ginger Secrist Myers, Adams County correspondent, in Section D Page 30.

## It "Wonders" Us

BY EVERETT NEWSWANGER  
Managing Editor

LANCASTER COUNTY — Well, there should be no question in the minds of PennDot officials and their engineers that Lancaster farmers have an interest in what they plan to do with our community.

An estimated 2,000 persons attended the meeting at Pequea Valley High School last week to hear about the proposed new Route 23/30 bypass east of Lancaster. The size of the crowd was amazing. Many of our Amish neighbors who have most to lose from the breakup of their communal districts were there. Not saying much. Just there to let their silent presence do their talking.

What "Wonders" us in this whole discussion is why, at this late date, there still exists these proposed roadways right through the middle of our choice farm heartland. We talk about ag land preservation, and everybody should know by now that our Amish families preserve farmland from generation to generation without depending on federal or state handout subsidies to do it. They just never let the land they acquire get back out of their farm community again.

These good farmers have voted yes for farmland by their actions for quite some time now. And their methods for doing this don't make them very dependent on the state. Maybe a road through their community will break up their church districts and break their strong Dutch wills at the same time. Their leaders say they may need to move from the area if

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