

Lancaster Farming

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PA Forage Conference Gives Expert Advice

BY BONNIE BRECHBILL
Franklin Co. Correspondent
MERCERSBURG — "Hay is one of the most marketable, agricultural products," Dr. John Baylor told the audience at the 1987 Annual Forage Conference November 24. "It's one of our cheapest sources of cattle feed, but here in Pennsylvania we have not taken full advantage of the innovations available."

"There is a lot of potential in using hay as a marketable product in Pennsylvania," said Sidney Bosworth, conference chairman and assistant professor of agronomy at Penn State.

As a forage producing state, Pennsylvania ranked 12th in the nation for alfalfa production and 10th for all hay in 1985. During that time, 5,302,000 tons of hay were produced at an estimated value of \$363,187,000.

Bosworth cited three points concerning the production and marketing of hay. Quality, first of all, must be an emphasis in a farmer's marketing plan. Maximizing the economic return of a hay crop depends not only on yield but also on quality, as prices can vary as much as \$40 per ton.

Diversification, Bosworth's second point, is important because it may allow one to hedge the market. Also, a hay producer who is locked into one forage is forced to harvest within a short time.

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(Left) David Witmer, Cumberland County, who was champion of the Field-Cured and Preservative-Added Division of the hay show at Ag Progress Days; (middle) Virgil Gutshall, Perry County, champion of the Field-Cured Division of the same show. Ben Myers, Franklin County, who took second place in the Northeast Forage Quality contest. They were recognized by Sidney Bosworth at the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Conference.



Lantoga Farms has been in John Shirk's family for 239 years. Shirk and his wife Katharine recently became members of the state's Century Farm program, which honors families that have lived on the same farm for 100 or more years.

Century Farms Honored At Banquet

LANCASTER — "One of the best ways to preserve agricultural land is to keep it in the family," said Jay Irwin, Lancaster County Extension agent in relation to the nine county Century Farms named at the Agricultural Industry Banquet Tuesday evening.

Irwin presented the awards at the 11th annual event at Old Hickory Inn attended by more than 250 people. Three of the farms were in the family of the owners for more than 200 years," Irwin said. "I like to do a little calculation. If you add all the years together that these nine farms have been in their respective families you get a total of 1,428 years.

The Lancaster County Century Farms are as follows: A. Frank and Mary Nolt Huber, Mount Joy, in the family since 1730; John S. and Catherine K. Shirk, Lititz, in the family since 1748; Melvin and Gladys Metzler, Manheim, in the family since 1770; Harold S. and Virginia P. Brubaker, Manheim, in the family since 1812; Eva B. Snyder, Stevens, in the family since 1876; Roy and Ruth Newcomer Nissley, Lancaster, in the family since 1877; Harold B. and

Ruth Becker, Ephrata, in the family since 1878; M. Clair and Miriam D. Delong, Quarryville, in the family since 1882; Martin D. and Lydia H. Denlinger, Lancaster, in the family since 1882.

Secretary of Agriculture Boyd

Wolf, speaking on ag economics development said progress has been made by the present administration to fulfill campaign promises. Wolf listed these as having a former farmer as agricultural

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OUTSTANDING JUNIOR MEMBERS: Jr. Division Award Winner R. J. Donovan, left, with Sr. Division Award Winner Marsha Anthony.

PSU Dairy Conference Fine Tunes Management

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS
Berks Co. Correspondent
STATE COLLEGE — "Managing for a profitable future in dairying," was the theme of the recent Dairy Management Conference hosted by the Penn State College of Agriculture, Department of Dairy and Animal Science, held in State College last week. Presented by a delegation of Penn State pro-

fessors, the conference was aimed at fine tuning management practices in feeding programs, dairy herd reproductive health, sire selection, forage crop economics, and financial management skills. Just over 100 dairymen from Pennsylvania and several surrounding states attended the two day program and evening banquet

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State FFA Nursery/Landscape Team Places Second In Nation

BY LISA RISSER
BROWNSTOWN — What Chad Thourot of Lancaster, Gayle Moore of York, and teammate Steve Aument of Philadelphia remember most about November 14 is moment they discovered that they placed second in the FFA National nursery/landscape competition. Their team also was the highest-placing Pennsylvania team at the competition in Kansas City, Mo.

They competed with more than 140 students in areas including plant identification, pruning and

propagating practices, a landscape practicum, and plant judging. Gayle placed 24th individually to receive a gold medal, while Chad placed third overall and was presented with a golden bowl.

Chad, son of Charles and Donna Thourot, and Gayle were honored by the members of the Lancaster County Vo-Tech Joint Operating Committee at their meeting Tuesday night. Although Gayle lives and attends school in York during the week, her home on weekends is with her parents, Connie and Brad

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Crawford Holstein Club Recognizes Top Performers

BY CAROLYN HILSDON GILLES
Crawford Co. Correspondent
MEADVILLE — One hundred twenty members of the Crawford County Holstein Club braved snow squalls and icy roads to attend the annual meeting held at Dante's in Meadville on November 20. Judy Wolford introduced guests in attendance and President Richard Pegan called the meeting to order.

presented the slate of candidates for Directors of Crawford County Holstein Club: Donald Anthony of Meadville, Larry Crom of Jamestown, Richard Curtis of Union City, Clark Duncan of Cochranton, Dennis Halfast of Centerville and James Rynd of Cochranton. Ballots were collected and new directors were announced to be Larry Crom, Richard Curtis and Clark Duncan.

Dan Dickey presented Youth State Director Ed Doeberiner

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