

# Lancaster Farming

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## Route 23/30

### Lancaster Officials Press For Immediate Construction

**BY LISA RISSER**  
**LANCASTER** — James G. Huber, chairman of the Lancaster County Commissioners, called for the immediate construction to begin on the Route 23 bypass and development of plans for a road to alleviate Route 30 traffic congestion.

Huber, representing the county's commissioners, issued a unified consensus position for the group on the Route 23/30 dilemma that has concerned people in the county and state level for some time at a Thursday afternoon press conference. The conference, origi-

nally slated for Friday, was moved up partially in response to statements made Wednesday by the Casey administration.

Transportation Secretary Howard Yerusalem said that the state expects to begin construction on the Route 23 "goat path" by the Fall of 1990 and continue studying the feasibility of a combined Route 23/30 project.

In addition, Governor Robert P. Casey was adamantly against constructing a new highway that would bisect the Amish community or disrupt their lifestyle. Last

(Turn to Page A35)



The snow and cold weather this week caused drifting over roads and frozen water pipes around the farm. But this pretty picture of the snake fence along Queen Road north of Paradise created shadow patterns in the snow.

## 20 Back Mountain Barn Fires Have Farmers Reeling

**BY BARBARA MILLER**  
**Lycoming Co. Correspondent**  
**DALLAS** — Sleep comes hard if you're a farmer in the Back Mountain area of Luzerne County these days. Farmers' nights there are split into two halves, one part spent patrolling the barn and out-

buildings, and the other trying to get some sleep while remaining alert enough to hear Rover if he barks.

Most feel the loss of sleep is preferable to the loss of a barn. But after a while the nagging fear, lack of rest, and the unfair-

ness of the situation gel into feelings of anger and frustration.

"I hope to God they get that devil. I sleep with one eye open and with my gun on the other bed," says one Back Mountain farmer.

He is among the fortunate. His barn is still standing.

Since last May there have been 20 arson fires in the Back Mountain area causing property damages in excess of \$700,000. Of those 20 structures, 16 were barns, often owned by older citizens and in close proximity to a road. Most occurred in the wee hours of the weekend mornings, and sometimes as many as five structures were torched in less than an hour. To date, loss of life attributed to the blazes stands at nine cows and four dogs.

the Pennsylvania Holstein Hall of Fame, was one who suffered heavy losses in the most recent arson fires.

One of four buildings burned the morning of December 12, the

(Turn to Page A24)

## Milk Producers May Receive \$1-Premium

**BY PAT PURCELL**  
**COCHRANVILLE (CHES-TER CO.)** — Atlantic Dairy Coop producers in the Middle Atlantic Cooperative Milk Marketing Agency (MACMMA) area may receive \$1.00 per hundredweight premium on Class I milk or 50

cents for all milk by May or June, if dealers continue to respond favorably to recommendations from MACMA, according to Robert B. McSparran, President of MACMMA and of Atlantic Dairy Cooperative.

Speaking to nearly 100 coop

members from the Cochranville and Oxford locals at their annual dinner meeting, January 21, McSparran, stressed the "if" in that statement.

"Dealers have responded favor-

(Turn to Page A28)

**Sands Fire**  
 Seventy-three-year-old Ralph Sands, a prominent Luzerne County dairy farmer recently elected to

**REWARD \$7,000**  
**ARSON**  
**ARSON**

**ARSON HOTLINE 696-3267**  
**KINGSTON TWP. POLICE 24HRS**

For the arrest and ultimate conviction following arrest, if taken of any person or persons involved in the setting of all arson fires in the Back Mountain Area. The reward is limited to the total of \$7,000, equally shared. This will be paid to those informants providing information leading to the arrest and ultimate conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the arson fires. All names of informants will be held in strictest confidence.

THIS REWARD WILL APPLY TO THE TOWNSHIPS OF KINGSTON, DALLAS, FRANKLIN, NORTHMORELAND, EXETER AND JACKSON TOWNSHIPS.

Posters such as the above offering a reward of \$7,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the arsonist are being distributed in the Back Mountain area by a concerned group of citizens.

## Trunkenmillers Achieve Equal Yields By Using Manure

**SUNBURY (Northumberland Co.)** — Robert and Gary Truckenmiller on their dairy farm in Delaware Township, during the past growing season, established six nutrient demonstration plots on one of their corn fields and experimented with different rates of manure and fertilizer application.

The experiments were done in cooperation with the Northumberland County Conservation District, Cooperative Extension Service, and the Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Program.

The purpose of the project was threefold:

scaling back fertilizer application rates in accordance with manure analysis and soil test results.

**Manure Testing Is Accurate**

From the results, it appears that manure testing produces a relatively reliable estimate of nutrient levels in manure. Farmers who do not scale back their fertilizer application rates on fields that receive

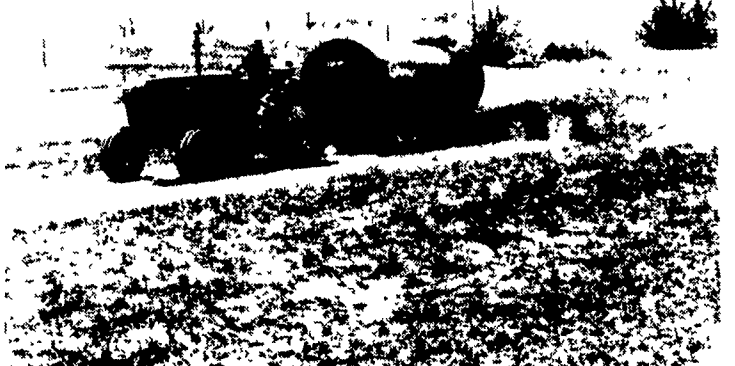
(Turn to Page A38)

- (1) Demonstrate that the application of nutrients in excess of plant requirements does not increase crop yields.
- (2) Demonstrate that manure analysis and soils testing are valuable and reliable tools in developing a systematic approach to manure and fertilizer application.
- (3) Demonstrate that significant financial savings can result from

**Cleaning Up The Bay**  
**Articles In Section D**



Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Rohrer, Jr. of Cochranville, Chester County, were honored recently for their 50th year as members of the Atlantic Dairy Cooperative. Elvin Rohrer, Sr. began farming in Lancaster County on Horseshoe Road near Hellers Church.



The 3200-gallon liquid manure tank was used to spread manure. The manure was incorporated into the ground by disking two days later.