

Lancaster Farming

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Swine Breeders Have 31st Annual Banquet

BLUE BALL — About 200 swine breeders attended the Lancaster and Chester County annual meeting here last Friday evening. The program included a motion picture about the results in the checkoff program and Roger Rohr's Canadian hunting adventures.

In addition, Andy Groff, Lampeter, received the James Z. Martin Swine Achievement Award and the following directors were elected: Chester County, Ken Emery; Lancaster County, Eric

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Legislative food baskets symbolizing the bounty of Pennsylvania's agricultural economy was given to all state legislators present at the Keystone Corncopia.

In the photo (L to R) are: Patrick Stapleton, minority chairman Senate Ag Committee; Edward Helfrick, chairman Senate Ag Committee and Samuel Morris, chairman of the House Ag Committee.

Gala Event Showcases PA Ag Products

BY EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

HARRISBURG — The gala event that showcases Pennsylvania's excellent farm products took place again here as the 1988 Keystone Corncopia unfolded in the Sheraton's East banquet room. From the reception that included cheese, honey, chips, pretzels, mushrooms, eggs and milk to the buffet of chicken, pork, beef, fruits and vegetables the "Plenty of the Land Became the Banquet" of the

more than 500 ag industry and legislative leaders that attend this social highlight from year to year.

A large number of state legislators attended the Corncopia sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations. And in addition to the first-hand indoctrination of the importance of agriculture, these state senators and representatives received a food basket full of the bounty of Pennsylvania's ag economy to take home.

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Rabies Is In Lebanon County

BY LISA RISSER
PRESCOTT (LEBANON CO.)

— "Rabies is here today," Dr. Lynn Sammons, DVM, of Willow Creek Animal Hospital in Reading, told farmers at the Lebanon Valley National Bank luncheon seminar on Wednesday.

"On Monday, half a mile from here (the Prescott Fire Hall), a racoon was killed that tested positive," Sammons said. "Two weeks ago, a cow in Jonestown tested positive."

"This is a very serious concern," he added. "It takes only 10 days after contracting the disease for cows to die. In humans that period could last up to three weeks, depending on how far away from the brain the bite is, resulting in the worst kind of death."

Sammons recommended that farmers vaccinate all domestic animals on the farm that can be handled. Those that won't let the farmer approach, or display unusual beha-

avior, should be eliminated. In addition, all wildlife coming onto the farm, especially in the daylight, should be killed.

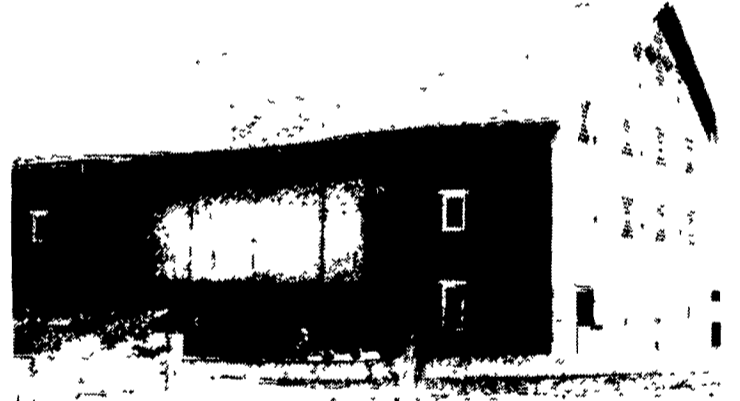
Any animal that is killed should be buried immediately, even in this

weather when digging a grave is near to impossible. The animal should be buried without being touched by the farmer or another human being.

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John Zimmerman, a Lancaster County 4-H beef leader for 18 years, was given an appreciation award from club members last week. Zimmerman, of Ephrata, is retiring to spend more time with his six grandchildren. For more on Zimmerman and the other award winners at the county's 4-H livestock banquet, see section "D," page 2.



Old barns, such as this brick-end structure, are attracting the interest of architectural historians and renovation buffs alike. Ginger Myers, Cumberland County correspondent, takes a look at some of the classic buildings in her county beginning on page 2 of section "E".

Extension Service Started "Farming By The Book"

BY SALLY BAIR

Lancaster Co. Correspondent
LANCASTER — Although "farming by the book" was not always accepted in Lancaster County, most farmers eventually came to accept the idea that the Lancaster County Extension Service had something to offer, according to Earl Groff, president of the Lancaster County Extension Board from 1946-1951.

Reminiscing on the 75th anniversary of the Lancaster County Extension Service, Groff said, "It was certainly good to get the knowledge and expertise they offered. It was important that we get the benefit of establishing methods based on research."

Groff praised the early leadership of "Dutch" Bucher, saying his unique position of being an agent who lived in the county made him

be more readily accepted than others. He said, "Those who supported "Dutch" were really interested in getting it to work. We were fortunate to get a man like that."

Groff, who milked 30 head of Holsteins on his 116 acre farm, was probably considered progressive at the time. His was the first farm in Pennsylvania to adopt a system of broad based terraces. Groff says, "It used to bother me as I'd plow and work up and down the slopes that it was taking away the topsoil that we could never recover." Groff also worked with Southeastern Pennsylvania Artificial Breeders Cooperative, though a few skeptics assured him that he was going to hurt his herd by using artificial insemination. Groff says, "It permitted us the use of bulls that were not otherwise available. I

was fairly successful."

Earl's enthusiasm for the benefits of Extension were shared with his son J. Wade, who became president of the Board in 1971. Wade said, "Extension to me was the voice of research at the college. We were able to get unbiased information."

The younger Groff remembers that their farm was a "demonstration" farm in 1963, receiving special attention with soil tests and a survey on the soil profile. There were also recommended crops to plant. Groff says, "We used the Extension Service to help contour the farm, and Harry Sloat helped us in our bookkeeping. He showed us how to take a capital gains break in the selling of cows." He added that they also used advice from

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Bob Groff, center, and Max Smith, right, discuss pasture-management principles with farm owner, Herman Glinder.