

Lancaster Farming

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New State Grange Master Selected

HARRISBURG—

After nearly a decade as Master of the Pa. State Grange, Charles E. Wismer, Jr., a dairy farmer from Montgomery County is retiring "to

return to the farm."

According to Wismer, "I find that my children have grown up and moved away. While they were

home I could depend on them to help tend the 135 milk cows and 220 acres of land. Now that they are gone, I find that the farm requires more of my time than I can give and still remain Master of the Grange. I came from the farm to be Master. And I leave the Master's Chair to go back to the farm. I worked only for the Grange and I will work to serve the Grange in any way I can.

During Wismer's tenure as Master of the 115 year old, 42,000 member, family farm organization he initiated many new programs, among them were: Lifetime membership program; 800 telephone number; State Deaf Committee; Grange Day in Harrisburg; 26 new subordinate Granges established; 20 reactivated subordinate Granges; First Master to serve on Board of Overseers University of

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National Ag Secretary, Richard Lyng (left), and Pennsylvania State Ag Secretary, Boyd Wolff.

Gov. Sends Ag Secretary To Washington

HARRISBURG — Gov. Robert P. Casey this week asked U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng to issue a federal drought disaster declaration for the entire state of Pennsylvania.

"Every county in the state has experienced damage from the 1988 drought to the degree that places our state's largest industry

at risk," Gov. Casey wrote in a letter to Lyng.

Gov. Casey said the declaration would represent a first step toward helping Pennsylvania agriculture

recover from the current crisis. The designation would make qualified Pennsylvania farmers eligible for low-interest loans from the fed-

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Charles Wismer



William Ringler

Land Conference:

Stop Treating Our Soil Like Dirt

BY LOU ANN GOOD

ELIZABETHTOWN (Lancaster) — Lancaster is at a crossroads. Will it preserve its farmland or will it allow development to run rampant?

The planners for the Land, Ethics, and Community Values conference held at Elizabethtown College, on July 21 to 23, believe the county's agriculture and spiritual roots have been largely responsible for its fertile beauty. Now economic growth threatens to destroy it.

Countians have diverse values. Some want to retain its virgin ruralism while others claim commercialism must continue for economic growth.

Is it possible to solve the problem when these two opinions are in direct opposition to each other?

"Yes," Douglas Weidman, president of Lancaster Design Community, told more than two hundred people who attended the three day conference. "We must get below the emotional levels to

collectively come to a vision."

He believes that Lancaster is having a midlife crisis. And that countians possess a frontier mentality of squandering resources.

"The problems underlying environment problems are basically arrogance, ignorance and greed," said Calvin DeWitt, professor of environmental studies at the University of Wisconsin.

To instill a sense of responsibility, he turned to the Bible, which teaches that God is owner of the earth, not people who are short-term occupants of the land, and that human beings are responsible for earth keeping.

He said, "Dominion is stewardship." Conflict often enters into deciding exactly what dominion

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Heifer Shot In Pasture

PEQUEA (Lancaster) — Unknown to the farmer, a light-caliber bullet (maybe a .22 or .222) grazed the head of a 1,000-pound bred Holstein heifer one night last week on the Daniel Metzler farm on Douts Hill Road. Metzler first noticed that the heifer, which freshens this fall, was not feeling well. Later he noticed that one eye was not focusing correctly.

When the veterinarian was called, at first the only indication of the problem was a low-level fever. But upon closer examina-

tion, they found swelling around the head and a healing scar both where the bullet entered and exited the head.

Metzler said it looks like some-

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RCMA Plans Diversion

MOUNT JOY — The first day of September may be diversion day for Farmland Dairies if RCMA can get its present plan to action. At a meeting here Monday evening, Edgar King, Manager of Customer Relations, outlined the plans to divert enough milk away from Farmland Dairies in one day to break the resistance to over-order pricing by the New Jersey-based milk handler.

Up to now Farmland has successfully resisted RCMA's effort to obtain full over-order premiums by paying its own premiums to farm shippers. These premiums exceed RCMA's payments to date.

In addition, because RCMA did not previously divert all milk from Farmland at the same time, Farmland has replenished its milk supply by adding new shippers and expanding its farm pickup area.

But officials at Monday's meeting were hopeful that this new tactic would cause Farmland to negotiate with RCMA before the September 1 deadline.

RCMA, government officials and media representatives seemed to outnumber the relatively few farmers that attended this meeting at the Country Table Restaurant. But officials outlined a plan to con-

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York County Dairy Show

BY JOYCE BUPP

York Co. Correspondent

Kowraygen Creek Linnan Jean added another jewel to her crown of show-string wins last week when she was named senior and grand champion of the York Black & White Show on July 21 at the York fairgrounds.

Owned and exhibited by C.E. Hubbard of New Cumberland, the winning aged cow is scored EX-90. Her latest completed lacta-

tion, at 5 years 10 months, 365 days, totaled 28,671 milk and 1292, with a 4.5 percent fat test. Though now a 4-H "graduate" Hubbard has exhibited the Creek daughter to numerous state and national junior and open class awards.

Judge Creedin Cornman of Carlisle praised her dairiness, tremendous body capacity and well-balanced udder, and noted that she

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Kowraygen Creek Linnan Jean, exhibited by C.E. Hubbard, continued her history of showing dominance with the York Holstein senior and grand champion honors. Reserve went to Woodbine Farms with Woodbine Vallant Marty. From left are Dairy Princess Sue Eisenhart, C.E. Hubbard and his champion, George Knight III handling, the reserve, and judge Creedin Cornman.