



Dairy Numbers Decrease By 12,000

Lancaster Farm Production Value Down \$10 Million

BY LISA RISSER

LANCASTER — Lancaster County farmers saw a \$10-million decrease in the value of their products last year, according to a study conducted by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

The decline, fueled by a drop in numbers and in value of the county's livestock industry, was offset somewhat by an increase in the value of last year's crops, which brought farmers almost \$112 million.

The report, which is compiled by the Crop Reporting Service, indicated that the total value for Lancaster County agricultural products was \$686.8 million. Of that, \$111.7 million was from crops and \$575.1 was from livestock and poultry. The dollar value of farm

PennAg Names Purcell "Ag Journalist"

EPHRATA (Lancaster) — PennAg Industries Association, a Pennsylvania ag-business trade association, has announced that Pat Purcell, writer for Lancaster Farming, has been named "Ag Journalist of the Year".

The contest is sponsored to promote excellence in agricultural writing and is awarded to the journalist who best exemplifies consistent quality in writing. The contest is held in conjunction with PennAg's annual convention.

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Morris Is Guest Of Honor

Shrine Names Honorees To Receive Awards At All American Sept. 26-30

John Morris, longtime Maryland Extension Dairy Specialist, will be recognized as Guest of Honor at the annual Dairy Shrine Banquet during the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show on September 28 in Harrisburg, Pa. It is the organization's highest honor.

Although Morris has numerous professional affiliations and accomplishments, he is best known for his contributions to the Maryland 4-H dairy program while Extension Specialist from 1950 to 1977. During those 27 years, Morris helped thousands of youth to build goals, dreams and a desire to make life better.

Under his leadership, enrollment in the 4-H Dairy project rose to the highest in 15 years despite shrinking numbers of farm families. Programs he created included

production for last year was about the same as that reported in 1985.

The number of farms has remained constant, while the total field crop

acres dropped by 3,340 from 1986 levels.

For the first time since county officials have been keeping records, there has been a decline in the number of cows in Lancaster County. "But we're still by far the number 1 county for dairy animals," stated Jay Irwin, Lancaster County extension agent. "We're way ahead of Bradford, Franklin, and Chester counties combined."

Lancaster's dairies have reduced cow numbers by 12,000 for a total of 102,000 animals, or 14 percent of the state's cows.

Bradford, the number-two county in dairy cows, has 42,000 cows; Franklin comes next with 41,000 animals, with Chester County owning 27,000 cows. The value of production per cow in the county, however, has increased by approximately \$80.

"The biggest change in the total county figures is the decline in the poultry industry," declared Irwin. "And our biggest concern is the decline in egg prices. There was a \$26-million decline in the value of egg production (for Lancaster

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	1986		1987	
	Units	Value \$*	Units	Value \$*
Dairy Products	114,000	218.5	102,000	203.7
Broilers	46,100,000	60.6	51,200,000	62.4
Layers & Value Of Eggs	8,725,700	112.4	9,017,100	85.9
Cattle & Calves	203,000	148	204,000	176.2
Hogs	342,000	33.9	330,000	24.8
Corn-Grain	121,000	25.9	105,000	23.4
Silage	68,600	23.8	75,100	30.5
Total Value-All Crops		103.3		111.7
Total Acres Field Crops	20,000 A		315,000 A	
Value Livestock & Poultry		593.5		575.1
Total Value - All Agricultural Products		696.8		686.8

* In Millions of dollars

Savage-Leigh RORAE Chrissy Named Miss Maryland Futurity

BY SUE CROW

Maryland Correspondent
 TIMONIUM, MD — The lights were dimmed. The spotlight was focused on the center of the show ring at the cow palace of the Maryland State Fair. Dave Brauning, dressed in tuxedo, announced the fourth runner up, then the third, the second, the first. Finally he said, "Here she is, the 1988 Miss Maryland Futurity." Those were the last words that young Christopher Savage heard as his three-year-old cow took the spotlight for her victory walk around the showing.

Savage-Leigh RORAE Chrissy was the 'cream of the crop' from the 21 other three-year-olds shown Sunday night at Maryland's Fifth

Annual Holstein Futurity. In 1985 the selection process began when calves were nominated throughout the state based on their pedigree and hope that they, too, would end up in the winner's circle. Owners entered them again as yearlings and again as two-year-olds. From the list of 395 entered, only 21 made the final selection, by their owners, to enter the contest.

A 14-point hitch with Belgian Draft horses brought out the regal court of Dairy Princesses and The Farm Bureau Queen. Ringmen John Morris and Marion Andrew accompanied Judge Richard Keene, from New York, to ring-side. From there Keene worked the

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The Rodger Wagner family was named the 1988 outstanding Berks county farm family Wednesday evening. In the photo (l to r): Roger, Brandan and Dorothy. Back Row: Betsy James and Dean.

Berks Outstanding Farm Family Named

BY EVERETT NEWSWANGER
 Managing Editor

FLEETWOOD (Berks)—By the time all the past outstanding farm families, fair and government officials, volunteers and media

representatives were recognized here Wednesday evening everyone had stood to applause. The event was the annual Reading Fair Awards Banquet and kickoff at the grange hall. The fair is scheduled for Sep-

tember 19 to 24.

This year the outstanding farm family of Berks County was a dairy farmer from Oley--Rodger and Dorothy Wagner and their four

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