



## Young Farmers Outstanding In Their Field

BY LISA RISSER

HERSHEY (Dauphin) — "This makes all our hard work worthwhile," stated Calvin Beekman as he and his wife, Michele, were presented with the Outstanding Young Farmer Award by the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association.

The Beekmans, who have an orchard in Boyertown, received the award at the 38th annual meeting of the statewide farm organization this week. They were selected from five finalists who exhibited farm management and leadership skills before reaching age 30.

Cal represents the third generation on the 334-acre family orchard and grain farm, which is operated by a corporation formed by himself, father Wayne, and grandmother.

The Beekmans earn more money from the apples and peaches grown in their orchards, but find the diversification into grain essential. Besides offsetting risks, the diversity is necessary in terms of man power and time.

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Michele and Calvin Beekman of Boyertown in Berks County were chosen as the state's Outstanding Young Farmer by the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association. The Beekmans were given a toy tractor in anticipation that they will win the national competition in San Antonio, the prize for which is the use of a full-size tractor for a year.

## Producers Want Fair Price For Eggs

BY LOU ANN GOOD

LANCASTER — Last year egg farmers suffered losses totaling \$26 million. That's enough to send them scrambling to gain control of a declining market and spiraling prices.

Said Jay Irwin, county extension agent, "Producers should certainly have some say on price. They know what it costs to produce egg."

He asks, "Why should consumers control the prices? The public doesn't go to a car dealer and say, 'This is what I'm paying for your car.' Other industries set prices, why shouldn't egg producers?"

Irwin emphasized, "They should not be providing eggs below cost and they can't continue to do so. They do an excellent job in production and management, now its time they command a fair price for their eggs."

Many producers believe the way to get a fair price for eggs is to have a supply management plan, which is some type of production control that would allow only the amount of eggs on the market to meet consumers' demand. In recent months, a handful of county producers have been getting together and with the help of Penn State's agriculture economic department have drawn up a questionnaire that has been sent to 2,100 producers nationwide.

The questionnaire is to be completed by November 20 and returned to the county extension office. The committee hopes the responses will show which direc-

tion the industry should take to stabilize the egg market.

Within five days of mailing the questionnaires, 630 were completed and returned. Irwin said, "That tremendous response indicates the urgency of the situation. Producers need some way to get a handle on what they're getting for their product."

The survey offers a good overall view of the industry nationwide. It's not a survey put out by the government. It's a producer driven survey. Paul Wolgemuth Jr., an Elizabethtown independent egg producer in partnership with his father, chaired the committee made up of other producers. Irwin believes this has brought forth a positive response since Lancaster

Poultry Association is in charge of the survey and proposal rather than government.

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### Holiday Deadlines

The Lancaster Farming office will be closed Thursday, November 24, in observance of Thanksgiving. Deadlines for the November 26 issue are as follows:

- Mailbox Market Ads—Noon, Monday
- Public Sale Ads—5:00 p.m., Monday
- General News—Noon, Wednesday
- Classified Section B Ads—5:00 p.m., Tuesday
- All Other Classified Ads—9:00 a.m., Wednesday

## Delinquent Farmers Face 45-Day Deadline FmHA Borrowers Alert

BY PAT PURCELL

HARRISBURG (Dauphin) — By Thanksgiving, 560 of Pennsylvania's farmers will have less than 45 days to save their farms. Across the nation 90,000 troubled farmers will face the same threat.

Delinquent borrowers of Farmer's Home Administration, which is 10 percent of the state's farmers, will receive by certified mail a packet from FmHA entitled "Notice of Availability of Loan

Service Programs for Delinquent Farm Borrowers". This packet contains nine complex forms that must be completed if the borrower wants to restructure his debt load or appeal any FmHA decision.

The Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 requires FmHA to notify delinquent borrowers of their new rights, which includes the right to restructure farm debt. The packet will go to 36 percent of all FmHA

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## Gov. Casey Urges Building Bridges For A Stronger Pennsylvania

BY BONNIE BRECHBILL  
Franklin Co. Correspondent  
KAUFFMAN STATION —

(Franklin) — "The people in this room make up the heartland of the state. This is Pennsylvania at her finest," Governor Robert P. Casey told the 450 people attending the State Farm-City Week Kick-Off Banquet November 15. "I'm proud to be your governor."

Governor Casey reminded the audience that the first bill he signed as governor took commodity activities away from the government in Harrisburg and gave them back to the farmer.

The governor also stated that the Farm-City Council, of which

he is honorary chairman, is building bridges between farm and city families.

"Two centuries ago, nine out of ten people were farmers," he said. "Now, most people live around cities. This has tightened the interdependence of farm and city areas."

In his fifteen minute speech at the Kauffman Community Center, he often referred to Pennsylvania as a family.

"The family of Pennsylvania means we must stick together, reach out and help each other," he said. "We're a family state. I've raised eight children in this state. I

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Lamar and Mary Howe and their family, including 6-year-old Sarah, will be providing fresh turkeys for about 4,000 families.

## Farm-Fresh Gobblers To Go

BY LISA RISSER  
DOWNINGTOWN (Chester)

— In less than two weeks, Americans will sit down to their traditional turkey dinner complete with all the trimmings. About 4,000 families will be feasting happily on birds fresh from Lamar and Mary Howe's Little Washington Farm.

But not before the Howes, their many children, and some hired helpers butcher, pluck, dress, and package the birds, which will weigh 18 pounds and up.

The Howes hope to sell about 6,000 turkeys between now and the year's end. They purchased the gobblers as day-old poults in three

batches that were staggered to have market-ready birds at both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"A market-ready bird is about 14 weeks old," said Lamar. "But we grow ours a little longer—20 weeks. This means a heavier bird, but that's what our market calls

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