

Lancaster Farming

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Four Sections

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State Ag Preserve Board Authorizes \$20 Million

BY

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

HARRISBURG—At the first meeting of the new Pennsylvania Agricultural Land Preservation Board here Wednesday, \$20 million was authorized to purchase conservation easements during the first year of the program. To counties that have a preserve program in place or agree to initiate a program before August, 1989, \$10 million is earmarked as grants to purchase rights on approved farms, and \$10 million will go to match county funds that are put into the program.

To open the meeting and to introduce the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's proposal to set the "purchase threshold" at the highest level allowed by Act 149, Boyd Wolff, state ag secretary, said that 485,000 acres have now been committed to ag security

areas across the state. That's an 87 percent increase since November of 1987. And when you add the 90,000 acres in Lancaster County that is expected to join the state program, that makes a total of 576,000 acres.

By the law, signed by Gov. Robert Casey last December, PDA administers the program, the ag secretary chairs the board, and the board is a branch of PDA. To be eligible, a farmer in a local county who wants to preserve his land for farming must apply to his county board. When approved at the local level, the application will be forwarded to the state board. Farms that are approved will be appraised both for their value for farming and their value for development.

Steven Crawford, the new deputy secretary for market and economic development (appointed by Gov. Casey last week), said that

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The Conebella Farm situated in the hills of the Welsh Mountains in northwestern Chester County was home to Conebella Rebel's Annette, the top seller in the National Ayrshire Sale. Annette, a junior two-year-old took the top bid of \$4,400. The Charles Gable family owns and operates the farm which has been in the family since the early 1920s.

Conebella Farm — Home of Beautiful Ayrshires

BY PAT PURCELL

ELVERSON (Chester) — The Conebella Farm of Elverson, Pennsylvania derived its name from the railroad crossings the Conestoga on one side of the farm and the Isabella on the other. But to Ayrshire breeders the name has earned a different meaning.

This 200-acre farm is located in the beautiful hills rolling from the Welsh Mountains in northwestern Chester County and originally purchased in the 1920s by Joseph Gable, a carpenter. Since the time of its purchase little has changed, but the name "Conebella" has come to mean beauty.

The word "belle" is defined as a female admired for her beauty and the most beautiful among a number of rivals. And since the 1930s

when the first Ayrshires were brought on the farm Conebella Farm has been known for its beautiful Ayrshire ladies.

Today, Charles and his wife, Josephine, and their son Donald and his wife Pamela continue the Gable tradition of dairy farming. A Penn State graduate in dairy science Donald returned to the farm in 1985. Some changes have been made in feeding, but mostly the joint efforts of father and son are focused on continuing to build on the Conebella name.

Charles's father, C. Harold Gable purchased Ayrshire heifers from the Dunwoody Home Farm in Newtown Square, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. This farm was managed by the late John I.

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Bush, Yeutter Answer Questions On GATT, Farm Bill

BY LISA KISSER

In a first-ever presidential interview on USDA radio, President George Bush answered questions on the recent General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade agreement, the federal budget, and the upcoming farm bill.

The recent GATT agreement between the United States and the European Community has caused concern as to its effect on the 1990 Farm Bill.

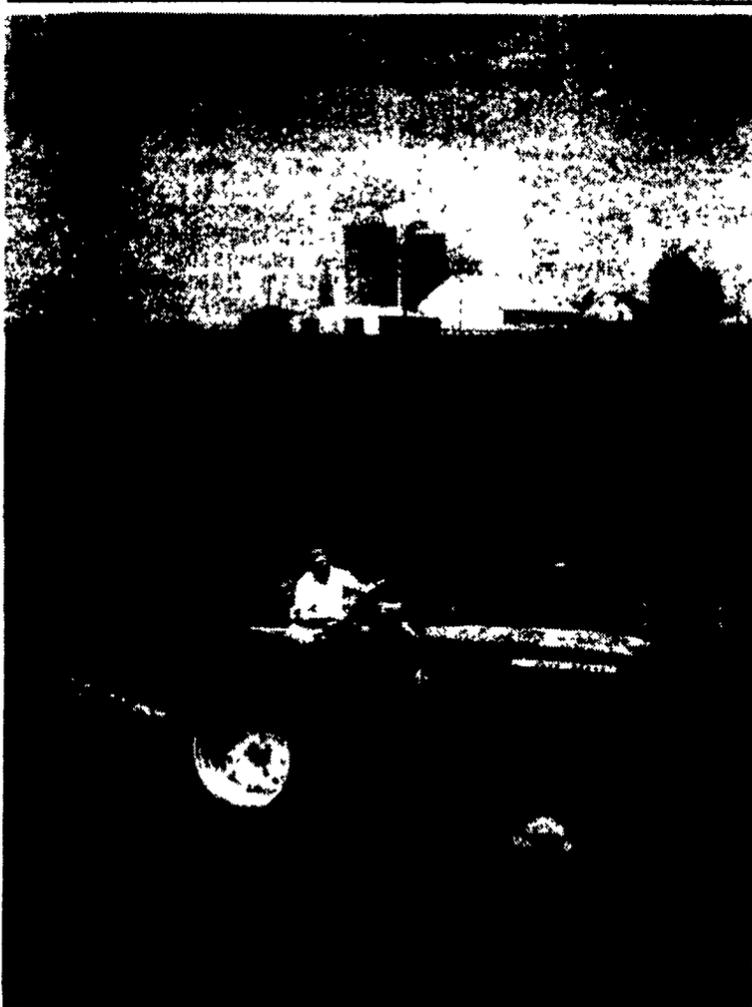
"What happened over there was that the international community, reluctant to discuss agriculture, has finally understood that we have to go forward," said Bush. "We've got (agriculture) on the agenda, and we will be able to move toward freer markets and less protection. So the upcoming

farm bill can be used for leverage because we are not going to unilaterally disarm. We're not going to take cuts unilaterally based on some verbal assurances from people who have excluded our products from their markets."

While in Geneva, the GATT nations agreed that the long-term objective of the agricultural talks is to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system. The agreement requires participating nations to offer plans dealing with farm trade problems by the end of this year. By the end of 1990, they must reach an agreement on a common solution.

Until that point is reached, the agreement binds the nations from extending subsidies beyond their

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Plowing 25 Percent Done

Like many farmers this week, Nelson Wenger, Manheim R6, put the steel moleboards in the furrow to cure a winter-long itch to begin the process to get a new crop into the ground. This inner subjective feeling happens every spring in all true farmers, of course.

On Monday afternoon, when Managing Editor Everett Newswanger's camera caught up with Wenger at the corner of Earhart and Colebrook roads, the ground was working up nicely. Wenger's farm buildings can be seen in the background.

By mid-week, the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service said that 25 percent of the plowing was completed in the state. This compares to 40 percent last year. In northern Pennsylvania, 8 percent was completed, in the central region, 31 percent and in the southern region, 29 percent.

New Castle Youth Wins Top Honors At

Little International

BY MARIANNE WALKER
Centre Co. Correspondent
UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre)

— Out of 84 Penn State students, Bill Dean, a senior in animal production and a New Castle native, was named the overall champion of 72nd Little International Livestock Show. The reserve champion overall award went to Christa Rankin, a senior in horticulture from Abbottstown.

Competitors in the show, which was sponsored by the university's Block & Bridle Club last Saturday, vied for fitting and showmanship trophies in four species areas, beef, horse, swine, and sheep.

Participants in the fitting contests were judged primarily on their ability to clip and clean the animal within a given time period.

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Olver, Leshner, Seipt To Be Honored At 64th Dairy Exposition

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre)
— Dale Olver, William Leshner and Donald Seipt will be honored at the 64th Penn State Dairy Exposition on Saturday, April 22, at the Penn State Ag Arena.

The expo is dedicated to Dale Olver, a 1979 Penn State graduate in dairy production. Dale is currently employed as a sire analyst/progeny evaluation specialist by Atlantic Breeders Cooperative where he is responsible for analyzing daughters of Atlantic sires and teaching principles of cattle evaluation to Atlantic employees.

As a Penn State student, Dale was very active in the Dairy Science Club serving as vice-

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