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National Plowing Contest

Lancaster Man Out Plows Competition For Large-Plow Title

BY JOYCE BUYP

York Co. Correspondent

MANCHESTER (York County) — Torso twisted in the familiar seat, eyes intent on the shining moldboards and ribbon of sod, Frank Burkhart carefully eased the plow into the finish furrow in a small plot of northern York County's reddish soil.

As Burkhart's crawler tractor lifted the plow at the opposite end, completing the final bite through the sod, judges moved in to begin their intense scrutiny of the Lancaster Countian's tillage skills.

When the results were tallied, Burkhart had furrowed out a claim to the national large-plow championship and the chance to represent the United States at the 1990 World Plowing Contest. The world competition will be held next September in the Nether-

lands.

The Lancaster farmer outplowed his nearest competitor by a hefty 15 points, a notable lead in a contest where scores are measured down to hundredths of a point.

Burkhart, of Silver Spring Road, won his first national title in 1970, only his second year of competition. After seeing his first state plowing contest in 1968, Burkhart relates that he turned to his father and said he thought he would like to give the contest a try the following year. On his initial try in 1969, the young plowman finished an impressive third in the state, and has been a contest regular ever since.

"That plow hadn't touched ground since last year's contest," admits the veteran winner, adding with a wide grin, "But now we'll

have to get serious and practice a little."

Headed for the Netherlands with Burkhart is Werneer Gruber of Paynesville, MN, who bested the field for the national small plow championship honors. Gruber's fellow competitors offered him hearty congratulations and good-natured comments that they were happy he had won, because they would no longer have to compete against him.

The national title was Gruber's fourth - and final - in his some 25 years of plowoffs. Competitors are allowed to plow in the world contest no more than four times, a rule that effectively "retires" the Minnesota tillage veteran from national competition.

Waiting in the wings, however,

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Frank Burkhart, left, of Lancaster is the 1989 large-plow champion, while Werner Gruber of Minnesota is the national small-plow champion. The pair will represent the U.S. in the 1990 world plowing competition, to be held in the Netherlands next September.



Traskdale Pete An Bast Wins Eastern

Traskdale Pete An Bast owned by Dale Hostetter (right) and Tom Lyon was named the grand champion of the open show at the Eastern Pa. Championship Holstein Show held at Kutztown Fairgrounds. She was followed by Keystone Dynamo Denise owned by Keystone Farms. Donald Seipt (left) is at the halter. Dairy Princesses from Berks and Lebanon counties, Becky Snyder and Kynel Bomgardner, are on the right with Montgomery Co. Dairy Princess Amy Wolfgang on the left. See story Page A-26.

Holler-View Marc Daughter Tops Holstein Central



Singing Brook Farms of Imler received both premier breeder and premier exhibitor banners. Pictured are Huntingdon County Dairy Princess Susan Hess (left), Oble Snider and Greta Jo Snider of Singing Brook Farms and Armstrong County Dairy Princess Jennifer Grooms and show judge Dale Oliver. See story C-4.

Newswanger Named Ag Journalist

PennAg Honors News Staff Members

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.)—Two members of the news staff at *Lancaster Farming* have been honored this week for outstanding reporting by the PennAg Industries Association, a Pennsylvania agribusiness trade organization headquartered here.

Everett Newswanger, managing editor, has been named PennAg's "Ag Journalist of the Year" in a contest held in conjunction with the association's annual convention. Dr. David Brubaker, executive vice president, said the contest is sponsored by the agribusiness group to promote excellence in agricultural writing, and the award is given to the journalist who best exemplifies consistent quality in writing.



Newswanger



Risser

An award of \$500.00 will be presented to Newswanger at PennAg's 111th convention, which will be held from September 10-12, at the Seven Springs Resort at Champion in Westmoreland County.

PennAg Industries Association also named Lisa Risser, staff writer, as a "Selection of Merit" award winner. Risser will receive a certificate and \$100 by mail for her winning article about pesticide poisoning. Deiter Krieg, editor of *Farmshine*, won the other "Selection of Merit" award.

The awards to the professional news team at *Lancaster Farming* follow last year's award when Pat Purcell, another staff writer won PennAg's Ag Journalist award.

Newswanger submitted three articles which dealt with BST (bovine somatotropin, a hormone used to increase milk production), animal rights and how that movement could change farming, and a court case involving the validity of Act 43, the state farmland security act.

Ag Production: 1988 Was A Record-Breaking Year

BY LISA RISSER

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Despite a hot, dry summer last year, the value of Lancaster County agriculture rose to a record-breaking \$741.7 million—the highest since 1984. This amount is up \$44.1 million over 1987 figures, according to an annual survey conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. "Last year's value is the highest on record for a Pennsylvania county," stated Jay Irwin, Lancaster County Extension director. "It goes a long way in helping the county maintain its status as the

number one non-irrigating county in the country in terms of production."

Animal agriculture in Lancaster County was up more than \$25 million, making it yet again the top Pennsylvania county in terms of animal production. The number of farms remained the same as in 1986 and '87, which can be explained in part by Amish farmers purchasing a farm and dividing it, which compensates for farms lost to agriculture. Crop production rose significantly to \$140 million, up \$18 million from 1987.

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