

# Lancaster Farming

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## Atlantic Dairy Cooperative Reports Record Margin

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)— Atlantic Dairy Cooperative's 1988-1989 fiscal year was the best financially to date, with a record \$5.4 million net margin. That's the report given by Dr. Paul E. Hand, general manager, at the cooperative's 72nd annual meeting here Thursday and Friday. More than 500 members attended the two-day event to learn how their cooperative fared in 1989.

"It was a very good year," said

Hand. "Earnings from ADC and affiliates were higher than at any time on our history."

The \$5.4 million net margin translates into member income of 16 cents per hundredweight. This is nearly double the amount achieved in the previous fiscal year.

"Projections for next year are for more improvements," Hand said.

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Daryl and Brenda Crider, St. Thomas, receive the 1989 Outstanding Cooperator award from Robert McSparran, president of Atlantic Dairy Cooperative.

## Success With Poor Forages Demands Team Work

BY PAT PURCELL

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — If there was ever a time when farmers, veterinarians and feed salesmen have to work together the time is now, according to Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County Dairy Extension Agent. The grow-

ing conditions of 1989 has left dairy farmers short of quality forage and beset with ration balancing problems.

Dairymen are already feeling the impact of wet growing conditions, varying crop maturity, high weed population and crop diseases on their milk production. Compounding the problem is the lack of not only good quality, but also the lack of any kind of hay.

Shirk and Dr. Richard Adams of the Department of Dairy and Animal Science at Penn State University met with veterinarians and nutritionist/feed salesmen in New Holland Thursday evening to discuss the challenges they are currently facing.

Poor forage quality will limit milk production this year, Adams told the group and there is little which can be done about that. Those farmers accustomed to gaining their annual increase in pro-

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## Governor Casey Keynote Speaker At Grange Annual Meeting

UNIONTOWN (Fayette Co.)

— The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Governor of the Commonwealth, addressed an audience of over 500 Grange members and guests at the 117th All Grangers Banquet, Mount Summit Inn,



Photo by Lisa Risser.

Fred Weaver has earned money during the past few summers as a professional beef cattle fitter. Here he works with a steer to train its halter properly. Turn to page A36 for the story.

## Swine Health Is Subject Of New Study

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)— The Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) is ready to begin its first national survey. NAHMS was launched in 1983 by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The program was designed to measure the

occurrence and costs of diseases and health conditions in various livestock types and began with pilot projects in seven states.

The first national survey will focus on swine, specifically farrowing sows and preweaning pigs (from birth to weaning). NAHMS is now field testing its interviewing techniques and data collection

forms in preparation for the year-long survey to begin in early 1990. Information will be collected from approximately 1,400 swine operations for 18 states. The farms will be chosen by random sampling to represent the swine population nationwide.

NAHMS will collect the information. (Turn to Page A37)

## Chester-Delaware Farmers Association Plans Farm-City Tour

BY LOU ANN GOOD

NOTTINGHAM (Chester Co.) — Farm tours aren't just for city dwellers. Chester and Delaware County Farmers' Association promises to educate and entertain even the most agriculturally-oriented person during the Farm-City Tour of six agriculture businesses.

Linda Hicks, chairperson for the

November 11 tour, said that the annual event generates positive interaction between farm and city people. Last year, one participating farm had 800 visitors in six hours.

This year promises to be as appealing to visitors as other years. The tour begins at 10 a.m. and lasts until 4 p.m. on November 11.

Visitors can take the complete

tour or pick and choose one or more places.

Listed in the schedule are the following places.

•The Hershey Dairy Farm owned and operated by Art, Joyce, Duane and Marilyn Hershey earned the 1989 Dairy of Distinction award. Seventy head of registered Holsteins produce seven gal-

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## Tobacco Quality Mixed This Year

BY LISA RISSER

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — It won't be long now before Lancaster County farmers pull their tobacco down from the rafters and ready it for sale.

Buyers have been busy scouting the area and report that this year's

crop is generally mixed, more so than in previous years. "We're seeing a lot of good tobacco," said Claude Martin, president of Lancaster Leaf. "We're also seeing moldy tips and shed burn. The tobacco's also thinner in body, which results from too much rain."

Bob Anderson, Lancaster County Extension agent, concurs. "This was probably a fair to good year for anyone who planted on well-drained soil," he predicted. "Overall, yields will be better than normal if farmers planted tobacco in the right field."

Anderson estimated that acreage is up about 2,000 acres more than last year's 8,730 acres.

"It looks like farmers made a big switch back to Pennsylvania type tobacco," he added. About 75 percent of this year's crop is Pennsylvania type with the remainder being Maryland tobacco. In past years, the breakdown was closer to 50-50.

The increase in Pennsylvania type tobacco acreage is due to several factors including an increased demand for it last year, less perceived work in raising it, higher yields than southern tobacco, and the similar prices being paid for both last year.

In 1988, buyers were paying up to \$1.50 per pound for both types

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Installed as the Lancaster County Farm Women Society president today, Judy Greenleaf is the youngest and the first working farm wife to hold office for the past several terms. Turn to page B 18 to read about Greenleaf's plans as she heads the 33 societies with more than 1,000 members in the county.