

# Lancaster Farming

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## PA FFA Foundation Meets

GETTYSBURG (Adams Co.)

The quarterly Pennsylvania FFA Foundation Meeting was held at the Holiday Inn in Gettysburg. The meeting was preceded by a personally guided tour of Mason Dixon Farms, Inc., the Gettysburg Battlefield, and the Eisenhower Farm. Host for the meeting and tour was Richard Waybright, president of Mason Dixon Farms and a trustee of the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation.

The Honorable Samuel E. Hayes, Jr., president of the organization, presided over the meeting. Spouses of the trustees were special guests as was the Dover High

School FFA chapter, accompanied by advisor, Nicholas Stollar.

Highlights of the meeting were as follows:

- Announcement by Rep. Hayes of the appropriation of \$33,000 by the Pennsylvania Legislature for the support of FFA programs.

- \$15,115 of the \$21,440 amount needed for National FFA Contest trip winners had been raised and \$2855 of the \$5760 for Regional trip winners had been raised. The Foundation has until December 31st to raise the money. Two areas were noted that needed support - floriculture and nursery/

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## Berks County 4-H'ers Honor Members

BY VAL VAN TASSEL

Berks Co. Correspondent

LEESPORT (Berks Co.)

This past year was a banner year for Berks County 4-H with a total of 2,672 youth enrolled in the program, the most 4-H'ers ever, according to Rick Kauffman, Berks County Extension 4-H agent.

A breakdown of the membership revealed that more than half of the 4-H'ers are from suburban or central-city clubs. Three-fourths of the members are 11 years old or younger. The most popular project was embryology, which served a whopping 1,245 youngsters, followed by "Meet the Plants" program with 323 participants.

Michele Wojszwillo of the Leesport 4-H Club and Scott

Youse of the Eastern Berks dairy club received a number of awards including the "I Dare You" leadership award. Both members were nominated for the award by their leaders, and both received their teen leadership project, fourth-year gold pins during the evening. Wojszwillo, who was a Keystone winner in both the clothing and textile and the food and nutrition programs, has been helping five other 4-H members with their projects. Youse, a county dairy program winner and a state junior dairy show participant, is president of the dairy club.

Blaine Fessler, treasurer for the 4-H Development Board and the 4-H Community Center, received the 1989 Clover Award for service

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Twins Kenny and Kevin Ehrhardt ham it up with an ice cream cone to publicize the photography contest held in conjunction with the 1990 Maryland State Holstein Convention in Bel Air, Maryland.

## Double Fun

BY

EVERETT NEWSWANGER

Managing Editor

BALDWIN, MD—When is an ice cream cone double fun? When 11-year-old twin boys both get in a big lick to help create a photograph that is intended to publicize the 1990 Maryland Holstein Convention's photo contest. That's why Kenny and Kevin Ehrhardt, sons of Elaine and Jim Ehrhardt, Baldwin, Md., got out early from their fifth grade class at Youth's Benefit Tuesday afternoon. The twins have two big brothers, too. Brian, 16, is a sophomore at Loyola High School and Bucky, 19, is a freshman at Virginia Tech.

Actually, mom was the first to know about this because Betty Cole, publicity chairperson, called early to arrange for the photo session with Everett Newswanger, managing editor. And by the time the ice cream had melted, the boys had kissed and licked and stuck their noses in it and hammed it up with such natural ability, you would have thought they did this every day. And they got so much ice cream on themselves that later when they posed with a calf, the calf mistook their faces for the ice cream cone.

But it was all in fun—the kind of fun you also can have when you snap a picture to enter this photo

contest. Mrs. Cole said the theme of your photo should help to promote the dairy industry. Everyone is eligible to enter, but only one entry per person.

The photo may be black and white or color and should be from 5" x 7" to 8" x 10" in size and matted. Place your name, address and phone number on a label and attach it to the back lower left of the photo. Then send it by mail to Allen Galbreth, Box 13, Street, MD 21154, or bring your entry to the convention. Deadline to enter is 1:00 p.m., March 2, 1990, at the convention luncheon.

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## Farm Groups Hold Joint Meeting

CORTLAND, NY — Representatives of the New York chapter of the National Farmers Organization, New York State Farm Alliance, Committee on Rural Affairs, Rural Vermont, Oneida Lewis Milk Producers' Cooperative, New York State Grange, New York Farmers Union, and Pennsylvania Farmers Union met this week at Cortland, New York to discuss common concerns on dairy policy and an approach to the 1990 farm bill.

The groups agreed that the 1990 farm bill should include:

- \* A long-range two-tiered supply management program, instead of a quick-fix standby program;

- \* A support price based on a formula that begins at an adequate level of parity;

- \* An adequate reserve of dairy products, considered separately from surpluses;

- \* Exclusion of commodities for

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## Nutrient Management Dilemma

# Protect Ground Water Without Sacrificing Farmers

BY PAT PURCELL

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)

— Agriculture: the industry that has made Lancaster County known as the Garden Spot of the world, also has given the county another somewhat dubious distinction. That distinction being a county overloaded with animal waste.

Lancaster County is number one the state in livestock and poultry production—the very operations that have led to this overload of animal waste. The disposal of these agricultural byproducts has become one of the most talked

about and, sometimes, the most hotly debated topics.

Another byproduct of agriculture is the land. The rolling, green pastures dotted with cattle, the patchwork of fields of golden grain next to lush fields of alfalfa has convinced thousands of families and businesses to make their home here.

The shrinking available land area, due to this surge in development, has resulted in less land in agriculture. This shrinking land area has meant more animals per acre and less acres on which to dis-

pose of the animal waste.

And as farmers increase livestock numbers to keep profitability in their fiscal equation, in many areas of the county there simply is more manure produced than the available land can safely handle.

The concern about the future of the Chesapeake Bay and the quality of Lancaster County's drinking water are the two driving forces behind all the attention nutrient management is receiving.

Pennsylvania law now requires all townships to file a sewer plan with their county. This law also

requires township officials to test a percentage of their wells for nitrates and general water quality. For the first time in Lancaster County's history, reliable data is being assembled, according to Michael W. Brubaker, agronomist and proprietor of Brubaker Agromomic Consulting Service in Lititz and a Warwick Township Supervisor. And the data coming in shows some alarming levels of nitrates in wells.

A substantial number of wells, according to Brubaker, through-

out the county, are testing well in excess of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard of 10 parts per million. There is no looking back in Lancaster's history to compare. Prior to Act 537 there has been no system for testing wells for nitrates.

"We as township officials are seeing nitrate levels which concern us. We know over application of nutrients to farm land is one of the culprits. It certainly is not the only culprit. Septage problems are a very strong candidate as well,"

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