



# Lancaster Farming

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## Corn Growers Expect To Expand Market With Ethanol

VERNON ACHENBACH, JR.  
Lancaster Farming Staff

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — The future for corn growers appears as equally promising as it does bleak, according to experts at a Thursday Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Conference held at the Penn Harris Convention Center.

Ethanol production and biodegradable plastics are expected to increase corn consumption and will help to eliminate surplus production in the United States, according to Dave Drennan, field services director for the National Corn Growers Association.

However, corn producers may not be able to create the current surpluses of crop in the future. The 1990s appear to be filled with regulation and restriction on the use of toxic chemicals for weed control, said Dr. Marshal McGlamery,

professor of weed science at the University of Illinois. "We been working for the past three or four years on new industrial uses for corn," Drennan said.

"Even though half the crop is still consumed by the livestock sector, we still got a 1.6- to 2-billion (bushel) surplus projected, so we've been looking at industrial uses like ethanol in gasoline . . . and biodegradable plastics made with a six percent corn starch mix," Drennan said.

According to Drennan, the mix of ethanol to gasoline has several benefits to society at large. He said a 10 percent increase the octane rating of gasoline and helps to eliminate carbon monoxide in automotive exhaust, a major cause of air pollution.

Drennan added that there are eleven cities in Pennsylvania that already exceed federal clean air standards for limits for air pollution, directly attributable to automotive exhaust and calls for a stronger clean air bill, currently

under federal consideration could affect the situation more.

The biodegradable plastics made with corn starch reduces the time required by bacteria to decompose plastic bags. Normal plastic bags are rated to take anywhere from 300 to 400 years to decompose in a landfill. On the other hand, it is expected to take only from three to five years for the plastic-corn starch product to be broken down.

"I've got over 30-some companies making some kind of product. We've got two companies making biodegradable diapers right now . . . and several companies are making the trash bags, kitchen bags . . . a couple of bio-bags are being sold in Illinois . . . several of the companies here today are going to biodegradable plastic for their literature bags and several seed companies are using

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## Pennsylvania DHIA Reports Progress

EVERETT NEWSWANGER  
Managing Editor

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — DHIA is not just testing milk samples anymore. In fact, according to Clyde Robinson, state Dairy Herd Improvement Association president, the mission of DHIA is to "provide records, information services, consulting services and products that are accurate, reliable, innovative and competitively priced to assist agriculture producers in the successful management of their herds."

Robinson opened the second annual meeting of the state corporation here Thursday, by commending the delegates, directors and management for their help to take the message of reorganization back to the local districts.

"Last year, I asked you to tell your local association about the merits of reorganization," Robinson said. "Thanks for your cooperation. You did your job well."

"Pennsylvania DHIA is big business with a three million dollar budget," Robinson said. "Your

board has invested 1.2 million dollars in capital investments since 1986 which now gives us the best equipped and most efficient milk testing laboratory and the best data entry control system in the United States.

Robinson said the date of October 1992 is set as the final date for all local mergers into the state corporation because we needed to "get off our hunkers and get the show on the road."

Improved service, better trained supervisors with longer service records and better communication with members were listed as reasons for the reorganization.

"But remember," Robinson said. "this decision goes back for every member to have the opportunity for his or her vote either by voice or a proxy vote."

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Clyde Robinson was honored as the retiring president of Pennsylvania DHIA. Pictured (left to right) are Richard Barth, general manager; Robinson; and William Itle, vice president.

## Vaccinate Early, Prevent Exposure Are Keys To Controlling Avian Reovirus

ANDY ANDREWS  
Lancaster Farming Staff

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — "If we had 100 percent biosecurity, we wouldn't have any disease problems in poultry," said Dr. Bill Gerencer, director of poultry health for Avian Farms at Poultry Progress Day at the Farm and Home Center on Thursday.

Gerencer was one of 10 specialists invited to speak to about 150 poultry farmers and industry representatives at the seminar sponsored by the Penn State extension and the Lancaster County Poultry Association.

Gerencer identified some of the ways poultry diseases, particularly the respiratory enteric orphan virus (Reovirus) problem, are spread and ways to combat them.

His "stop the bug at the barn door" approach provides a list line of defense against reovirus and other types of diseases affecting poultry breeder and broiler flocks.

### Vaccinate Stock

Ways to handle the problem, according to Gerencer, involve two methods: prevent exposure and vaccinate broilers and breeder

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## Energy Corrected Milk Awards Given At Maryland Convention

ABERDEEN, MD — In the past, milk records have been adjusted for 3.5% fat-corrected in solids (FCM) to give credit to cows that produced milk high in

solids. According to Dr. Lee Majeskie, University of Maryland, Extension 0459, that formula did not give any credit to the protein composition of milk.

"This year our Production Awards are being based on Energy Corrected Milk (ECM)," Majeskie said. "The Energy Corrected Milk formula takes into account protein and fat when adjusting the milk for components."

The ECM Formula is 7.2 x lbs. protein + 12.95 x lbs. fat + .327 x lbs. milk.

This Formula should help to identify cows that produce high volumes of milk solids. The 1989 Maryland Holstein Production awards presented at the state convention recently are as follows:

REMSBURG SALE SERVICE TROPHY, (Jr 2 yr. old), Owner: Kimstead Farm, Centerville - Kimstead Mandigo Veronica - 28, 152 ECM.

HARRY ROACH, 111, TROPHY, (Sr. 2 yr. old), Owner: Meadow Lane Farm, Ridgely - Dean-C-T Enchantment Comet-ET - 29,340 ECM.

THE WHITELYN FARMS TROPHY - Donated by Dottie & (Turn to Page A38)



Lebanon County Dairy Princess Kynel Bomgardner finds that growing up on a farm with six brothers offers many rewards. Pictured from left: Jesse, 11; Kevin, 13;

Nelson, 22, John (dad); Cori, 15; Kynel, 18; and Jere, 25. To read about Kynel and the Bomgardner family, turn to page B2. Photo by Lou Ann Good.