

Lancaster Farming

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Computer 'Figures In' On Peach Bottom Farm

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff

PEACH BOTTOM (Lancaster Co.) — Ed Zug didn't like the long hours, so he quit.

Quit doing things the old way, that is.

Once upon a time, Zug, a Peach Bottom dairy farmer and Young Farmers Award winner, would have to "sit there all those hours and add up those columns of figures to get our balance sheet each month."

But not anymore. In 1983, Zug purchased an Apple IIe computer that "best suited what I was already doing," he said. Ever since then, Zug's farm has benefited from the computer in many ways.

Raises holsteins

Zug grows corn, alfalfa, and oats on 153 acres on his farm near Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania. He raises 50 holsteins and 4 jerseys.

For the past few years, the Zugs — his wife Debbie and children

Irene, 19 and twins Emily and Brian, 15 — have been operating the dairy farm. The four jerseys were added recently to the herd.

"Last year, when my twins started FFA in ninth grade, they decided they wanted to have cows as their projects, so they got jerseys," said Zug.

But that's not so unusual for a dairy farm. What may be so unusual is the time and importance the family puts into the computer in helping to manage the farm budget.

Sitting there

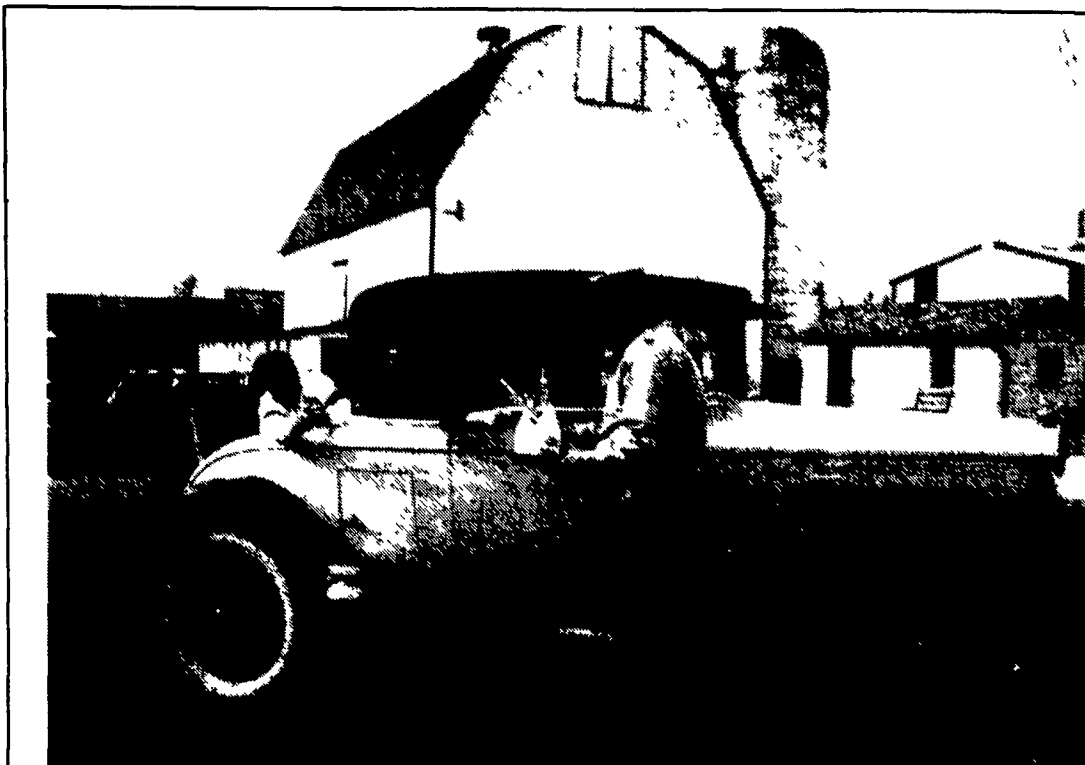
"I was keeping the record books all by hand and I didn't like sitting there all those hours," Zug said. He was spending a great deal of time placing figures into the book and wondered if there was a way to track expenses and income easier and with greater detail.

In 1983, Zug bought an Apple computer with an account program

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Ed Zug, a Peach Bottom dairy farmer, is "very happy" with his computer system. Accounting software helps him track farm income and expenses.



"Generations Of Milk Drinkers"

This photo won the photography contest at the recent Maryland Holstein Convention for Matthew Iager, Maple Lawn Farm, Fulton MD. Matt used antique milk containers and fed cookies and milk to three generations of his family as they posed in their 1927 Buick. (l to r): Mark Iager, brother; Mary Elizabeth Iager, paternal grandmother; and Charles Iager, father.

Ag Day Activities Feature Pennsylvania Food, Drinks

VERNON ACHENBACH, JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — At the state capitol on Tuesday, Gov. Robert Casey signed a proclamation and declared the state's first Agriculture Day of the 1990s.

He also announced the formation of a nutrient management task force.

The special state Agriculture Day observance coincided with National Agriculture Day and the start of National Agriculture Week, which ends Monday.

Casey said such an observance is necessary because "Agriculture

is the powerful engine driving Pennsylvania's economy."

The proclamation he signed notes that "55,000 farm families produce \$3.3 billion annually in crops and livestock and generate another \$35 billion in related economic activity."

"Pennsylvania ranks first nationally in the production of mushrooms, milk chocolate, pretzels and potato chips, along with the number of licensed bakeries."

The document also claims that the state's production of milk, frozen dairy products, chickens, eggs, cheese, peaches, apples, butter, tart cherries, grapes, corn and oats ranks it among the top five states.

In addition to the salutary remarks to the state's farmer and ag businesses, Casey announced the formation of an eight-member task force that is to research and recommend strategies for better

managing nutrient pollution to both surface water and groundwater in Pennsylvania.

According to a statement, Casey established "the governor's Task Force on Non-Point Source Nutrient Management to make recommendations on how best to reduce the contribution of nutrients to surface and groundwater pollution."

Chaired by Rep. Jeffrey W. Coy, (D) Franklin County, who is also a member of the state House Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee, the task force has been given six months to come up with a report.

Apparently, the group is designed as a review and decision-making group and will not initiate any new research in order to make recommendations. However, the group could suggest more research as a result of its review.

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Water, Land Improvements

Recognized By Conservationists

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Recognized for their excellence in practicing conservation, the Weaver Homestead captured the most prestigious award handed out by the Lancaster County Conservation District on March 15.

The homestead, operated by brothers Donald and Nelson Weaver, is located along White Oak Road in Earl Township. It took four years and 41 soil probes to implement nutrient management that has eliminated the farmland's need for fertilizer during the last three years.

According to Don Robinson,

LCCD director, the Weavers have long been an example of leadership and inspiration to others in conservation. Starting in 1975, they installed a sod waterway, contour strips, put in an ag waste storage system along with stormwater control.

LCCD's 39th annual dinner

(Watch for an on-farm interview with the Donald and Nelson Weaver families next week).

meeting held at New Holland was an occasion to recognize farmers, communities, developers and others who work to conserve land

and water.

The recipient of the 1990 outstanding stormwater management award went to the Meadows Edge Subdivision. John Luecker, developer of the 60-acre subdivision, worked with Rettew Associates, Inc.; E.B. Abel Construction; and B.R. Kreider Excavators to construct a 900 foot waterway and two detention basins for stormwater control.

The recipient of the public service award is St. Anne's Nursing Home and Village, which completed a 900-foot stream improvement project.

Spring Lawn Farm of Pequea Township received the clean water

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National Milk Proposes Alternative To Price Cut

KARL BERGER
Special Correspondent

FREDERICK, Md. — The debate on dairy policy for the 1990 farm bill is once again shaping up as a battle between those who want to cut prices and those who want to control production.

On the price cutting side, the Bush administration has weighed in with a plan that would continue the current policy of reducing the government's milk support price in response to surplus production.

The proposal would give Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter more latitude in adjusting the support price annually, a flexibility that could translate into cuts of 75 cents or even \$1 a hundredweight.

On the supply control side, at least partially, is the farm bill proposal recently unveiled by the National Milk Producers Federation, the Washington-based lobby for most of the nation's dairy cooperatives.

The National Milk plan has

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