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Lancaster Farming

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Rick Noll, of Manheim, works this field at Colebrook and Landisville roads in preparation for spring planting. Noll apparently got the fieldwork

started in time. Wet and warm weather may delay such activity for a couple of days this week. Photo by Everett Newswanger

Warm and Wet Weather Patterns Affect Farm Activity, Push Insects

VERNON ACHENBACH, JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — Wet and warm weather for the next couple of days will probably keep most farmers out of the fields, even though that would be the ideal place to be getting work done, according to officials.

The warmer than average temperatures all winter and spring have pushed insect activity from one to two weeks earlier than normal, according to entomologists at Penn State University.

Also, many across the southern tier, gearing up for a first alfalfa cutting, will have to wait. And pesticide spraying will also have to be delayed until the threat of rain disappears.

According to Victor Cruz, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Harrisburg, precipitation for the year, up until Thursday, had been below average by 1.74 inches.

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Dealer Collects Antique Tractors

VAL VANTASSEL
Berks Co. Correspondent
LYNNPORT (Lehigh Co.) — Antique collectors are known for their passion for items from the past. Kermit Kistler is no exception. While others fancy well-preserved quilts and depression

glass, Kistler and his family have developed a fondness for antiques with a more rugged beauty.

The Lehigh Co. John Deere equipment dealer collects antique tractors and engines. On Sunday, the family opened their collection to fellow enthusiasts from the

Antique Engine, Tractor and Toy Club. More than 300 people spent a rainy afternoon admiring the wide-ranging collection.

Kistler was surprised and pleased by the turnout. "The rainy weather may have been a good thing. Many of these people wouldn't have been able to come if the weather had been good," said Kistler.

Kistler's collection includes more than 50 antique tractors and more than 60 hit-and-miss engines. Most of the collection is

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Gift Of Milk In New Atlantic Program

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

SOUTHAMPTON (Bucks Co.)—A new agreement between Atlantic Dairy Cooperative and the service agency known as the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), allows dairy farmers to designate a portion of their milk (in pounds) as a gift to world hunger needs. The value of the donated milk will be deposited in an account at the dairy cooperative. MCC will then purchase milk from the cooperative in line with the credit in this account to produce powdered milk. The

powdered milk will be fortified with vitamin A and shipped to under-developed countries where food shortages have caused great need. Costs of shipping the milk powder will also be covered by the credit in Atlantic's special account.

"This is a dream come true," said John Hostetter, MCC material resources coordinator. "We have been working on and off since the early 1980's to establish such a program. We want to thank Atlantic board members J. Wade Groff,

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Joan Staudt, left, her daughter Cheryl, Ronald Kistler, and Beatrice and Kermit Kistler enjoyed the open house they held for members of the Antique Engine, Tractor and Toy Club.

1,700 Poultry Fans Jam Convention Center

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — More than 1,700 poultry fans jammed into the convention center here Thursday night for the annual fund raising banquet of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation.

Chairman Paul Sauder, Penn Dutch Farms, said the support of the Federation by the industry at the \$100-plate dinner was gratifying in light of the present problems of consumer misinformation.

State Secretary of Agriculture Boyd Wolff said the \$185 million

poultry industry was very important to the Pennsylvania's economy and chided other states for the "undeserved" bad rap given to the poultry industry. The statement was an obvious reference to New York's restrictive ban on eggs

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