



# Lancaster Farming

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## The Beam Farm: 33 Years Of Conservation

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
**ELVERSON** (Chester Co.) — Omar Beam is concerned about the changes. During just the last 35 years he has lived and farmed near Elverson, Beam has seen an increasing amount of development of land in this section of Chester County.

A few years ago, Beam became a member of the Chester County Agriculture Development Council, and spent time educating people about the increasing amount of land being sold to developers and speculators — which may, according to Beam, have profound effects on how we farm.

Beam farms about 650 acres and raises 1,100 head of hogs and 300 head of steers in partnership with his son, Nelson Ray; his associate, John Wilmer Stoltzfus; and Stoltzfus' son, Scott. Beam enjoys the benefits of a family farm. "We all farm together, but each one farms some of the acreage on his own," he said.

Beam has been a member of the Soil Conservation District since 1957. Recently, he was awarded

the Chester County Conservation Farmer of the Year Award at the Chester County Crops Day.

**Practices different**  
Beam said that conservation practices are different today than

20 years ago.  
"When I signed up for membership in the district, the reason I

signed up was that I thought I could try to make the best out of the the land I could," he said. "Not only that, I wanted to save on a lot of water and a lot of runoff, which would give me better crops."

Beam plants a cover crop of rye during the winter. When the rye reaches 10 inches in height, it is sprayed with herbicide. The rye acts to keep the soil moist, retains soil nutrients, and keeps the soil in overall good condition.

"The secret is to not let the rye get more than 10 inches high," he said. "If it gets too high, it becomes matted too much and it can become a harbor for insects."

### Adds nitrogen

Manure is taken from a holding pit, tested, and spread before corn is planted in the spring. If necessary, Beam adds commercial nitrogen.

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Omar Beam has been practicing soil conservation for about 33 years. Using contour strips and cover cropping, Beam farms about 650 acres and raises 3,000 head of hogs per year and 300 steers in partnership with his son Nelson Ray; an associate, John Wilmer Stoltzfus; and Stoltzfus' son, Scott.

## Lancaster Rep Proposes Egg Refrigeration Law

**VERNON ACHENBACH JR.**  
Lancaster Farming Staff

**EPHRATA** (Lancaster Co.) — Lancaster County Rep. Kenneth Brandt (R) on Monday introduced legislation before the state House that would mandate refrigeration of eggs within less than a day of hatching.

The proposed law was sent to the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on Wednesday where action is expected to proceed quickly, according to Brandt's aide.

Both Brandt, the chairman of the Ag and Rural Affairs committee and Samuel Morris (D), vice chairman, support the bill along with 27 other co-sponsors.

Currently, eggs are considered non-perishable foods and are not required to be refrigerated under federal law. If passed, the Brandt bill would change that.

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## Cousins Earn Big Bucks For Berries

**LOU ANN GOOD**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
**LANCASTER** (Lancaster Co.) — "Look at these berries. What'll you bid?" auctioneer Harold Keller called out.

Twelve-year-old Joel Leaman lifted the one-quart box of strawberries a little higher as the brisk bidding jumped from \$100 ... \$200 ... \$300 ... \$400 and....

"Smile a little more," Keller advised the Lancaster 4-H'er, "you might get more."

And Joel did get more for his berries that took the grand champion award at the annual 4-H Strawberry Roundup sponsored by the Lancaster Rotary Club. He got a hefty \$470 for his box of juicy, sweet berries.

The highest bidder was Donald Horn, president of Pennfield Corporation, a Rohrestown feed company.

"When I left home this morning, I told Mrs. Horn to have the shortcake made," Horn said, "because I planned to bring home the prize berries this year."

Horn, who for several years had purchased the reserve champion's berries, said that he feels strongly about the importance of supporting 4-H and the farm community.

Joel's stiffest competition in the strawberry competition was his cousin Hans Leaman who took the reserve championship.

"We're born only five days apart," Hans, the son of John and Nancy Leaman of Bird-In-Hand, said of his cousin.

Although the cousins are good friends and live within five miles of each other, they did not visit each other's strawberry patch.

Both top winners insisted that they don't have a secret for raising

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Cousins Joel Leaman, left, and Hans Leaman, right, took home a combined total of \$570 for 2 quarts of berries in the annual 4-H Strawberry Roundup sponsored by the Lancaster Rotary Club.

## Heindels Ready New Dairy Facility

**JOYCE BUPP**  
York Co. Correspondent

**AIRVILLE** (York Co.) — Doing things a "little different" has never bothered Horace Heindel.

So when the opportunity arose about a year ago to build a from-the-ground-up dairy facility, the Yorkana farmer broke stride with industry trends toward rapid-exit parlors and free-stall housing.

Instead, crews of installers and earth-moving machines are putting the finishing touches on a dairying complex revolving around a state-of-the-art, 200-head, tie-stall barn. "I want to look down through

the barn and see cows tied," was Heindel's preference.

Heindel, York R9, has farmed some 50 years, beginning with five milk cows of mixed breeds. In the days when most general farms kept a family flock of chickens, Heindel tended upward of 50,000 of all sizes, many out on range at the Yorkana farm.

The family, including his late wife, Thelma, and their 10 children, tended market across the Susquehanna River in Columbia during the 1940s. They were the first to market the once-popular colored chicks at Easter and the first to offer pre-cut chicken parts at a

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Nestled in the rolling green hills of southern York County near Airville, the Williamsburg-blue and Ivory colored buildings of the Heindels' dairy complex make a picturesque color contrast.