

# Lancaster Farming

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James Dunn holds the halter of one of the best cows of his milking herd, while standing with his family and herdsman in front of their Schuylkill County dairy farm. Standing in back of Dunn is herdsman Richard Hire. James' wife Tammie stands with the couple's three sons, who are, from the left, Joshua, David, and Robert. The cow is Zsa Zsa and her latest dairy production record showed milk production of 28,677 pounds in 279 days. Her milk tested out with 990 pounds of fat and 898 pounds of protein. She was fresh at 4-years, 7-months. She is classified Very Good 87.

Photo by Vern Achenbach Jr.

## Dairyman's Herd Shows Most Improvement

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.  
Lancaster Farming Staff

NEW RINGGOLD (Schuylkill Co.) — The most improved dairy herd in the state is on a farm that is an apparent paradox to the region in which it is located. Northeastern Schuylkill County consists of thousands of acres of steep-hilled, hardwood forest, small mountain streams, and Christmas tree farms.

Amid all this northwoods setting is a dairy farm that appears lost. It would look more at home in some flatland valley in southern Pennsylvania.

It's easy to imagine that some huge hand plucked the farm right out of the heartland of dairy country and accidentally dropped it to the earth.

And forgot about it.

But the Dunn's Farm dairy operation is far from an accident, despite its unusual location.

James Dunn, 28, his father Robert and brother Steve form Dunn's Farm Inc., an agricultural production and marketing family business that involves the production of fruit, vegetables, forage crops, beef — and, as of three years ago, milk.

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## Mid-Atlantic Conservation Tillage Conference

## Farmers Should Consider Environment

ANDY ANDREWS  
Lancaster Farming Staff

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — Farmers often face a multitude of dilemmas. What will it mean now that President Bush approved a \$1 billion credit line to the Soviets? In what ways can farmers control troublesome weeds, increase their understanding of nitrates in the soil and how they may leach into groundwater, and what this means to

water quality?

Those were just some of the topics addressed Wednesday at the 1990 Mid-Atlantic Conservation Tillage Conference at the Penn Harris Convention Center. Farmers around the region had a chance to seek expert's views about farming in the 1990s.

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## Pa. Lamb And Wool Queen Crowned

LOU ANN GOOD  
Lancaster Farming Staff

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Seventeen-year-old Arlisa Snavelly of Lancaster County wears the 1991 Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Queen crown.

"It's awesome to be named queen," Arlisa said. "I want to use my position to make people aware how good lamb tastes."

The coronation took place during the Keystone Shepherds' Symposium, held at the Lancaster Sheraton for three days last weekend.

Arlisa, the daughter of Jim and Arlene Snavelly of Lancaster, is president of the county 4-H Woolies Club. The Snavellys live on a small farm, but did not have sheep until Arlisa was nine and purchased one for a 4-H project. Her love and success with sheep breeding has grown

into a 20-head registered Shropshire flock.

"I prefer Shropshires because they are basically an all-around meat and wool breed. They are good natured, easy to care for, and don't consume a lot of food."

Over the years, Arlisa's breeding sheep have won numerous grand champion awards at Keystone International Livestock Exposition and farmshows at Manheim, Elizabethtown, Lampeter, and Harrisburg.

She was also named 4-H Shepherd of the Year and has participated in lead line competitions and in livestock and meat judging.

A senior at Lancaster Mennonite School, Arlisa plans to pursue a nursing or occupational therapy career because she likes to help people.

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## York Farmland Trust Formed

JOYCE BUPP

York Co. Correspondent

YORK (York Co.) — In the last four decades, York County has seen a loss of 39 percent of its farmland to non-agricultural use.

And, if the rate of loss continues as it has since 1950, a 56 percent loss of the county's farmland is likely to occur by the year 2000.

Alarmed at statistics like those, concerned York countians have discussed farmland preservation for the last several years in numerous meetings and forums. Now, that concern has come to fruition with the formation of the York County Farmland Trust. The Trust is a private, non-profit, member-supported organization formed with the intent of providing landowners with alternatives to converting productive farmland to non-agricultural uses.

"Development is needed, but not at the expense of our best farmland," said Stanley Brown, Loganville orchardist recently elected president of the York County Farmland Trust. Part of a three-generation fruit production and retail marketing family, Brown has a deep personal commitment to the urgent necessity to slow farmland losses.

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Editor's Note: In June and in December, the Pennsylvania DHIA member newsletter appears in one of Lancaster Farming's regular issues. This four-page letter appears this week on Pages D9-12 as part of the ongoing goal to make management information assembled in the DHIA computers available to our readership and to help the Pennsylvania DHIA communicate with its members.

In addition, other features about dairymen who have done outstanding work with their herds and stories about Pennsylvania DHIA's services appear throughout the paper. Of special interest will be the "Herd Profile Tables" on Page C-5 and "A Picture of Pennsylvania DHIA In Graphs" on Page C-2. Here's an index of all the DHIA articles in this issue. D9-D12 DHIA Newsletter:

PA DHIA Board Meeting Summaries.

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Pa. Lamb and Wool Queen Arlisa Snavelly was crowned during the fifth annual Keystone Shepherds' Symposium held at Lancaster December 7, 8, and 9.