

Lancaster Farming

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National Corn Growers Recognize Farmer For Outstanding Yield



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ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
FONTANA (Lebanon Co.) — An experiment to see how "the better acres could do" in a tract of land turned out to be an award winner for Gerald Hoffer, who was awarded a first-place finish in a yield contest sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA).

Hoffer, a cash cropper who raises dairy heifers on Con-Ger Farms, said he was interested in seeing what one of the farm's better acres could do. "It was planted right along with the rest (of the acres), fertilized right along with the rest, and there wasn't anything done different to that field," he said.

Hoffer used 4472, a Funk G brand hybrid from Ciba-Geigy, to produce a yield of 174.92 bushels per acre. The seed was planted April 25 last year on a 1- $\frac{3}{4}$ plot near his residence.

Hoffer, who operates a corn, soybean, wheat, and oat cash-cropping operation on 650 acres (585 rented and 630 tillable), said this was the first year he planted that variety.

This is the number
"My salesman is my neighbor right back here," said Hoffer. "I told him I'd like to enter one of his corns in the National Corn Growers Contest. And he said this is the number that can do it for you."

Although the entry called for an "irrigation class," Hoffer said that he did not have to irrigate to enter the class. "I entered the class and Mother Nature did the irrigating this year. 'Cause, hey, it never showed any stress whatsoever. It seemed like it rained every time it needed it and it just punched some corn out," he said.

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LF Writer's Extensive Research Needed To Find Pasteurized Eggs

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — To reduce the threat of salmonella poisoning, health officials warn, "Don't use raw eggs."

But what do you do if you like lemon meringue pies, chocolate mousse, and home-made ice cream made with raw eggs?

Pasteurized eggs are the answer. They are safe and easy to use. Real eggs, not egg substitutes, are used to make the pasteurized product.

Many of our readers have asked where pasteurized eggs can be purchased. After a futile search in local supermarkets, numerous calls to egg companies, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and to the organizations that are telling us to use pasteurized eggs in place of raw eggs, I have found that pasteurized eggs are not available in grocery stores although the eggs are sold to hospitals and restaurants.

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Animal Issues Featured At Holstein Convention

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

READING (Berks Co.) — Under the panel discussion title, "Holstein Breeders-Supporters of Animal Welfare," four prominent agricultural leaders brought their knowledge and opinions to the start of the Pennsylvania Holstein Convention this week at the Sheraton Inn.

The panelists are Dr. Stanley

Curtis, department head, dairy and animal science, Penn State University; Dr. Mabel Owen, director, division of animal health, Boston, Mass.; Dr. Thomas Hartsock, extension livestock specialist, University of Maryland; and Dr. Linda Detwiller, senior staff veterinarian, USDA, Beltsville, Md. Walter Wurster, Chester Co. agent, was the moderator.

Curtis said that in case we haven't believed the animal wel-

fare issue is a real one, the national corn growers, at their convention this week, scheduled their leading debate on the subject of the care and treatment of livestock. Because the livestock industry uses a lot of corn, the corn growers said they need to be proactive on the animal welfare/rights issue.

"When the corn growers make the subject their lead seminar, we can agree the subject of animal

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Hog Farmers Should Stop Health Problems At The Source

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — A pump agitator clearing out a manure pit suddenly stops. A 21-year-old farmer's son climbs down the shaft into the pit and is suddenly overcome with the fumes, falling into the tank, unconscious.

The boy's 23-year-old brother goes down after him and encounters the vapors, falling unconscious to the ground.

The 56-year-old father of the two sons also goes down into the pits, and also falls to the ground, unconscious.

A hired hand sees what's happening, but there is no way he's going to climb in. Instead, he calls the emergency rescue service. After they arrive, the rescue team brings all three men out — who die before arriving at the hospital.

Classic example

"This is a classic example of hydrogen sulfide poisoning," said Kelly Donham, DVM, Iowa State U. professor of preventive medicine and environmental health. Donham spoke to about 120 farmers attending the Keystone Pork Congress on Wednesday.

Donham spoke about human health risks in swine facilities, and how hog producers can counteract those risks to workers and animals.

The above tragedy occurred in a

town in north Iowa in 1985. A farmer and his family were killed by toxic hydrogen sulfide poisoning when they were trying to phase out a building and were agitating a

manure pit — a dangerous thing to do, according to Donham.

"We measured the levels of hydrogen sulfide just by starting up the agitation of that pump and it

was like 1,500 to 2,000 parts per million (ppm)," he said. That high dose is lethal to humans.

Hazardous gas

"Hydrogen sulfide is an extremely hazardous gas," he said. According to the researcher, the substance is similar to hydrogen cyanide used in gas chambers during World War II. "It causes you to stop breathing almost immediately."

During the past six years, Donham said the state of Iowa lost 19 people to hydrogen sulfide poisoning. And not only were humans affected (in addition to five dairy farmers last summer in Michigan and three from Ohio), but hogs are also lost — about \$1 million worth every year in Iowa.

Working with hydrogen sulfide is dangerous. When farmers agitate liquid manure, "it's like playing with gasoline," he said. "If you do it right, you're going to be okay. But there are problems if you don't do it right."

Farmers should stay out of the building during agitation and watch the animals to see if they show a reaction. If they do, stop, because the gas will stop "almost immediately," he said.

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"It came down to the last three questions," said Ken Winebark, Lebanon County agent, third from left, after the Lebanon County team won the Keystone Pork Bowl Wednesday. Tied through two rounds, the Lebanon team won during the "toss-up phase," beating Chester Co. 185-155. From left, Jon Harnish, Amy Harnish, Winebark, Dan Atkins, and John Risser.