

# Lancaster Farming

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The old saying that if March comes in like a lamb it will go out like a lion, may be true—we don't know. But we certainly have had lamb-like weather this week.

Many farmers get "itchy" to get in the field at this time of year, and our Amish neighbor in his field along Horseshoe Road north of the Conestoga Valley High School took advantage of the open thaw on Thursday afternoon to work the horses and plow. It was windy, but the gulls took advantage of an opportunity too. They seemed to enjoy the juicy morsels of food they picked up from the newly opened furrow.

## State DHIA Reports At Annual Meeting

EVERETT NEWSWANGER  
Managing Editor

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — "Not only can DHIA help dairymen to keep records and do a better job of management, but also, DHIA can be a cohesive force across the nation to bring the factions of the dairy industry together," said Doyle Waybright, Mason-Dixon Farm, Gettysburg.

Waybright was one of the presenters at the Wednesday afternoon general session of the third annual meeting of the new state corporation of the Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

"We have a lot of different opinions, but DHIA could be the force to bring dairy farmers together," Waybright said. "Some people say we have a national milk market,

but we do have regional aspects to the market. But we need to work together to stabilize the forces so we can always get a good return on our investment. The American dairy farmer is in a unique position to supply other nations with dairy products. We just have not had the leadership. I see DHIA having a roll in that leadership."

In the report from the general manager, Richard Barth reported a long list of accomplishments for DHIA in the last year. The association had a positive margin of \$13,000, up from a \$22,000 deficit last year. The state added 113 new herds to bring their total to 6,102; had 40 new ARIS users; and reduced the turnaround time for testing samples to 3.5 days.

Twenty counties merged into the state association and the heifer

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## Aggressive Care, Marketing, Urged For Poultry Industry

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff  
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — "Nutritionally and biologically, the egg is the safest food money can buy. You have a wonderful product, but you have been letting it fall down," Mario Yepez told poultry producers at the Poultry

Progress Day on Thursday.

"Look at the supplier like the customer looks at us," said Yepez who is the quality assurance field inspector for Pathmark.

He urged producers to launch a strong advertising campaign to combat the adverse and unfair publicity the egg has received.

To build consumer confidence, speakers at the annual all day event stressed the importance of clean poultry houses and healthy birds.

Rusty Barnes, sales representative for Biomune, Inc., in Salisbury, Md., stressed the importance of proper ventilation in poultry houses. "It's worth taking the time

to figure what's going on inside those poultry houses," Barnes said.

He explained the necessity of static pressure and relative humidity that is needed to keep dust and ammonia levels under control.

He warned that fans should synchronize to pull static pressure throughout the building rather than just move air in the building.

Fans should be kept at the optimum speed and that means knocking the dust off the shutters weekly, he said. If fan belts aren't tightened, the ability to move air can be cut in half.

"Never unplug the fans," Barnes warned. No matter how much you are convinced you will remember, eventually something will happen. He told the story of a farmer who was called to the hospital when his

son was involved in a serious accident. The next day, the farmer had two houses of dead birds because the fans were not turned on and the doors were closed.

Dr. John Schwartz, multi-county poultry agent, told participants at the seminar how to control flies in cage layer operations.

"How clean is clean enough when you clean and disinfect poultry houses?" asked Dr. Ed Mallinson, extension poultry veterinarian from the University of Maryland.

He alerted producers that often the houses aren't clean enough. He related studies that show it is almost impossible to rid wood of salmonella.

Poultry producers question why the poultry industry has a problem with viruses. Dr. David Kradel,

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## CMA's Save Farmers Money, Increase Farm Profits

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff  
FREEMANSBURG (Northampton Co.) — For the annual fee of about \$5 an acre, farmers can obtain better profits from their crops — and give the work of soil testing, scouting, and managing the fertilizer and pesticide use to Penn State specialists.

How can farmers sign up? Simply by becoming a member of one of the 10 crop management associations (CMA's) throughout Pennsylvania.

As of now, no crop management

associations (local, nonprofit organizations run by member farmers), exist in southeastern Pennsylvania. But if enough farmers become interested and can meet collectively, one could be started.

"By helping members use such crop-production inputs as fertilizer and pesticides efficiently, CMA's work to increase farm profits," said Jan Pruss, manager of the crop management program at Penn State. The association has been helping farmers manage their field crops since 1979.

Variety of services

Right now, according to Pruss, there are 500 farms with 85,000 acres under the watchful eyes of professional crop management technicians and consultants, cov-

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## Pseudorabies — How Does It Spread?

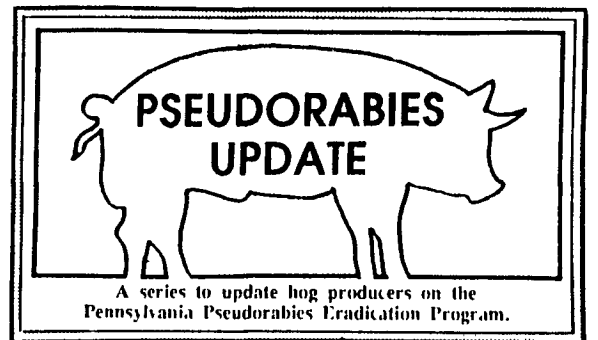
First of a series

Editor's note: The spread and control of pseudorabies, a disease affecting many swine herds in the northern part of Lancaster County, will be featured in a series of Pseudorabies Update articles in this and future issues of Lancaster Farming. In addition, an educational meeting about pseudorabies will be held on Monday at the Bergstrasse Elementary School (Rt. 322 exit of Rt. 222, across from the church) at 7:30 p.m. Those who need transportation from the New Holland/Terre Hill area may contact Floyd Huber, of the Lancaster Chester Pork Producers, at (717) 656-4318.

DR. WILLIAM SISCHO  
Extension Veterinarian  
Penn State University

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Nearly everyone who works with livestock, especially swine, has heard of pseudorabies, and maybe knows somebody in Lancaster County who has had problems with the disease.

It may come as no surprise when you hear of some hog operations that are having problems with



pseudorabies. But what about that place where you know the owner and they do a good job, or someone that has cleaned up from a previous problem and they become reinfected despite what appears to be good practices?

Another question is: Why, after two years of efforts to eradicate pseudorabies from Lancaster, does the disease still persist?

If there were one easy answer to these questions, the problem would have been solved, but a good part of the answer is in the biology of the pseudorabies virus and the way that it spreads.

Pseudorabies is unlike other members of its

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## National Milk, Others Seek New Government Dairy Policy

KARL BERGER

Special Correspondent  
WASHINGTON, D.C. — With farm milk prices at their lowest level since the late 1970s, there is once more talk in the nation's capital of the need for a different approach to dairy policy.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has received 48 proposals as part of review process designed to lead later this year to congressional consideration of an inventory management program, according to a spokesman for the USDA's Agricultural Stabiliza-

tion and Conservation Service. The ASCS will spearhead the department's review efforts.

John Mengel, a USDA economist, said the department plans to issue a preliminary recommendation by June 1 and then allow one month for comments. Any final recommendations are due before Congress by Aug. 1, Mengel said.

The entire process was mandated by the 1990 farm bill, in which Congress could not decide what form, if any, supply management should take. Rather, the farm

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