

VOL. 36 No. 32

Four Sections

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, June 22, 1991

60¢ Per Copy

19.00 Per Year

## FFA Elects New State Officers

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Ten FFA'ers from across the state of Pennsylvania were elected to the 1991-1992 State Officer Team last week at the summer convention. For the next year, the 10 officers will travel throughout Pennsylvania representing the Pennsylvania FFA Association at the Washington Leadership Conference and the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

They will participate in statewide leadership activities such as the State Legislative Leadership Conference, Made For Excellence Conference, and Farm Show activities. They will visit most of the 196 FFA chapters across the state and speak at chapter ban-

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STATE COLLEGE (Centre quets on behalf of the Pennsylvania FFA Association.

The new president is Melanie Brookhart from Millerstown, Pa. Melanie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alton Brookhart. She was graduated from Greenwood High School, where her principal was Edward Burns and her chapter advisor was Ms. Mee Cee Baker. Her chapter activities included chapter president, area FFA presi(Turn to Page A36)

#### **NOTICE**

Due to the July 4th Holiday, deadlines for July 6 Issue of Lancaster Farming will be as follows:

Mailbox Markets, Monday, July 1, 5 p.m.

Public Sales, Monday, July 1, 5 p.m.

Classifieds, Horses & Mules, Trucks & Trailers, Real Estate, Tuesday, July 2, 5 nm

Classifieds, Farm Equipment, Wednesday, July 3, 9 a.m.

General News, Tuesday, July 2, 5 p.m.

Late-Breaking News, Wednesday, July 3, Noon. Closed Thurs., July 4th.



The 1991-1992 state FFA officers elected last week are, front row, left to right, Andrew Smeltz, Upper Dauphin FFA, state sentinel; George Inhof, Owen J. Roberts FFA, eastern region vice president; and Christopher Richard, Waynesboro FFA, treasurer. Second row, left to right, Michelle Kerdeman, Manheim FFA, reporter; Melanie Brookhart, Greenwood FFA, president; and Dale Heagy, Northern Lebanon FFA, chaplain. Back row, left to right, Wayne Hassinger, Middleburg FFA, state vice president; Alison Fry, Miffilinburg FFA, north central vice president; Jodi Hall, Little Lions FFA, secretary; and Tim Lehman, Cumberland Valley FFA, south central vice president.

#### Rural Theft Increases, Published Reports To Help Find Stolen Items

### EVERETT NEWSWANGER Managing Editor

BOWIE, MD—On Sunday morning at 4 a.m. the neighbors heard a tractor go past their house. The sound was unusual for that time of day, but the source of the sound was not. A thief was driving Frank Robinson's 1972 Massy Fergerson with an attached chisel plow to a secret hideaway in a machine shed on a farm two and

one half miles away. Robinson, who owns a farm near Bowie, Maryland, has had two tractors that," said Robinson. "Yet, there is no effective way to combat this crime. Police are overwhelmed

(In response to farmers' requests, Lancaster Farming will publish reports of stolen items for farmers and equipment dealers free of charge. See new column with this story.)

stolen in recent years.

"Theft of farm equipment is on the rise and a rather dramatic rise at with more serious crimes, and thett of farm equipment is given short shrift."



Off To The Nationals

Leaving today for the National Dairy Bowl Contest are Pennsylvania's representatives from Lebanon County. From left, sitting, senior team members Angle Bollinger, Duane Nolt, David Lentz, and alternates Tom Shuey, and Ricky Bashore. In the rear are some of the members of the state junior team, Kathy Habecker, Justin Troutman and Todd Getz. Missing from the photo are Brent Shuey, Terry Hill and Troy Miller and coaches Mike Kunkle and Nelson Bomgardner. The two teams are headed to Sioux Falls, S.D., the site of the National Holstein Association's 106th Convention, where they will compete with teams from other states for the national dairy bowl title on Tuesday. This will be the second year in a row that a Lebanon County senior team has represented Pennsylvania at the national level.

For Robinson, the theft started a series of events that finally led to the recovery of his stolen tractor and prosecution of the thief. But not without the expenditure of time, energy, and money. The plow was never recovered.

"I traced my stolen equipment to a neighboring farm," Robinson said. "Wheel tracks and a scuff mark in the sod from the chisel plow gave away the location in the locked machine shed. I notified the police, and they came out to the shed but would not search it without a warrant. And they were too busy to get a warrant.

"I later advertised in a local paper and a dealer from Baltimore called and said he thought he had

sold my tractor. This call put me on the trail, and I notified the police. They later called me to come with

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(A column for farmers and agribusiness to report missing and found machinery, tools and livestock. Call (717) 294-3047 with these reports.)

# Farmers Feel Effects Of Possible Drought

ANDY ANDREWS VERNON ACHENBACH JR. Lancaster Farming Staff

BELLEFONTE (Centre Co.) — Since May 3, one farmer recorded only 6/10 of an inch of rainfall.

At another Centre Co. location, only 9/10 (not quite an inch of rainfall) was recorded in more than a month and a half. Other counties, such as Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, and York have received about the same, and need more than 4 inches of rain in order to avoid a severe drought.

Conditions throughout south central Pennsylvania have been so

dry that many ag experts are certain there is an agriculture drought. Already, state Lt. Gov. Mark Singel has called on residents to voluntarily conserve water — a possible portend to more severe drought restrictions that will impact farming.

Though it may not be official yet, many counties, including Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, York, Centre, and parts of Berks and Chester are feeling the effects of little rain. Statewide, rainfall is four inches below normal. (Lancaster Co. is 4.77 inches below

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