

# Lancaster Farming

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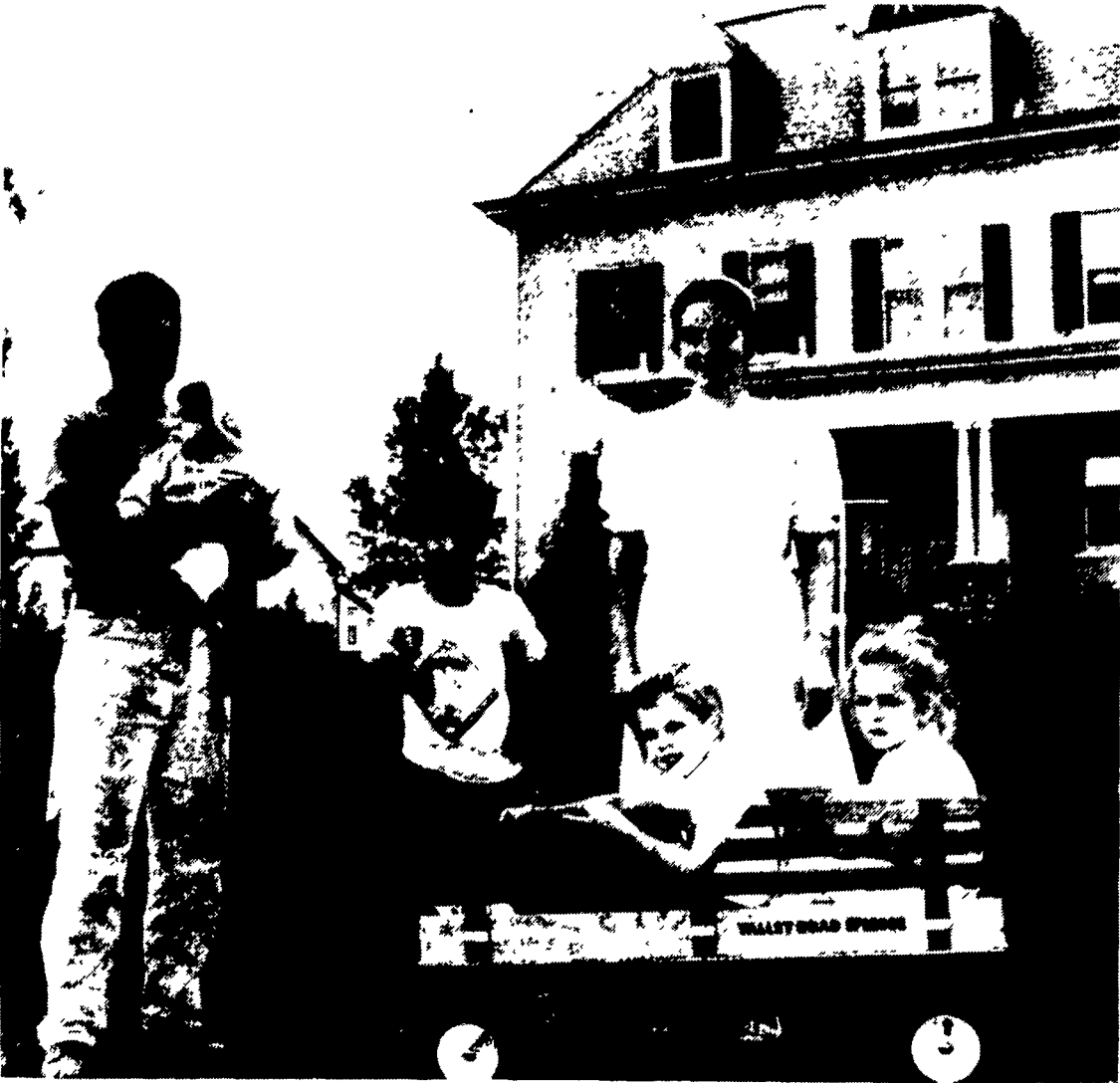
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The Zook family of Elverson recently received the Dairy of Distinction Award. From left, Melvin holding son Steven, 8 months; Michael, 7; Justin, 3; Katrina, 4; and Jean. Photo by Andy Andrews.

## Careful Management Makes A Dairy Of Distinction Farm

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
**ELVERSON** (Chester Co.) — In dairy farm management, Melvin Zook knows all too well that all the details matter.

It was his careful steps in smoothing out the farm operations, examining the makeup of feed, as well as several farm improvements that helped garner him distinction.

Working with his father, Ivan, and his family (wife Jean; Michael, 7; Katrina, 4; Justin, 3; and Steven, 8 months old) and Merlin Petersheim, who lives nearby in Honey Brook, Zook continues to enjoy profitability from his management of the Dairy of

Distinction Farm.

Melvin began farming with his father and has farmed all his life (except for a brief hiatus as a book dealer in Fairfax, Va.).

**Dad keeps up**

"Dad should get most of the credit for the award," said Melvin. "He's the one that keeps up with everything, makes sure everything is painted and cleaned up and so on. I just wouldn't have time to keep up with everything like he does."

Together Petersheim, who lives in Honey Brook and works full-time on the farm, the Zook family  
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## Milk Processors Won't Say Where Money Spent

**Editors Note:** Dairy farmers have expressed concern about the difference between the price of milk at the retail counter and the price they receive at the farm. Where does the difference go? This is the first in a three-part investigative series by Staffer Vernon Achenbach Jr. on milk pricing and the dairy industry.

at the check-out line for milk and other dairy products and what gets turned over to the dairy farmer is not clear.

That information is not made public by the businesses which buy milk from farmers, especially those operations which use milk as an ingredient to manufacture other food products.

Some companies, such as Hershey Foods Corp., which use milk for making chocolate foods and other products, claim that trade secrets prevent them from divulging such information.

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## Newly-Formed Foundation Promotes Ag Education

**LOU ANN GOOD**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
**CHAMBERSBURG** (Franklin Co.) — "Every state is so much farther ahead than Pennsylvania in agricultural education," said Beth Heath Moore. "We want to provide curriculum material that presents ag in the right light."

Moore is the executive director of the newly formed Pennsylvania Foundation for Better Living, established to educate students and adults about the importance of agriculture and how it affects their lives.

The Foundation aims for a wholistic approach for implementing ag education in the classroom. This means that math, science, art, history, and other subjects are integrated throughout the reading materials on agriculture.

"This approach is on the cutting edge of education," Moore said. "It's my understanding that teachers are looking for these types of materials and we want to provide them for the schools."

For example, a lesson on where and how pumpkins are grown would include activities to cut the

pumpkin, count the seeds, bake them, measure ingredients to make a pie, and eat it would teach students science, math, and nutrition.

Studies show that the wholistic approach to teaching is much more effective for recall, according to Moore.

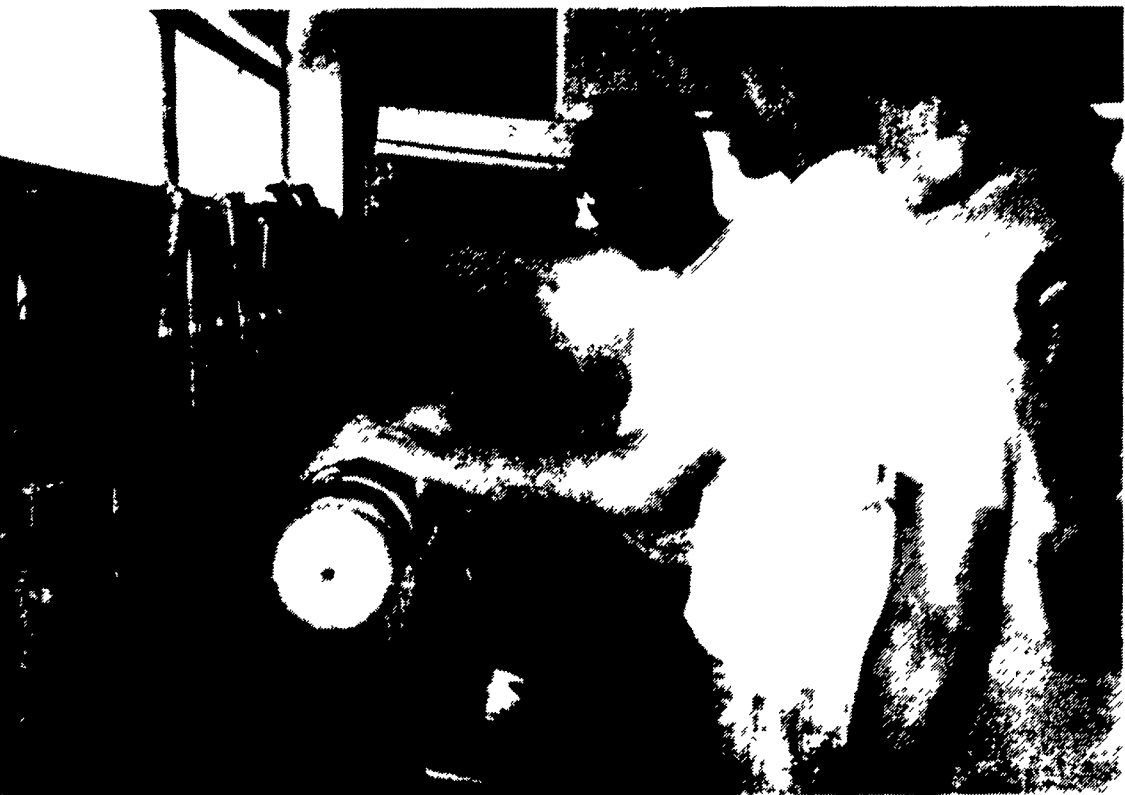
"Tell me, I'll forget; show me, I may remember; but, involve me, and I'll understand," is the learning philosophy for New York Agriculture in the Classroom's program.

New York is one of the states that the Foundation is using as a resource to develop their agricul-

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Dan Delancy is working at the wood lathe with classmates Jeremy Coughenour, center and Matt Foor, foreground.

## Long-Time Berlin Vo-Ag Teacher Not Ready To Retire

**GAY N. BROWNLEE**  
Somerset Co. Correspondent

**BERLIN** (Somerset Co.) — After 27 consecutive years of serving as a teenage mentor, you'd think a seasoned teacher would be strongly anticipating professional retirement.

But Doyle Paul, vocational agriculture instructor in the Berlin-Brothersvalley School District (his alma mater) and adviser to the Berlin-Brothersvalley FFA, chuckles at the supposition.

"I'm not even thinking about retiring," he said.

His classes are comprised of four categories: production agriculture, animal and plant science, agrimanagement units, and agricultural mechanics.

"The career has been so satisfying to me, I feel very good about our young people," he said.

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