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Mark Kornman checks the density of the maple syrup as it comes off the automatic draw-off valve. Kornman won the State Star Agribusiness award from Pennsylvania FFA for his maple syrup business.

## FFA State Star Agribusiness Award Goes To Mark Korman

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff

LINESVILLE (Crawford Co.)

— When Mark Korman was 13 years old, he started a hobby that skyrocketed him into state FFA fame. Now 18 years old, Mark's hobby has evolved into a maple syrup business that caught the eye of judges for the Star Agribusiness award, the only one given in the state.

Mark said tapping maple sugar was a hobby that his uncle enjoyed. When he showed Mark how to tap maple sugar from trees that are 8-inches in diameter, Mark thought it was pretty neat.

Soon, Mark started tapping syrup for his own family. At first he used 25 taps, but he enjoyed it so much that he now has 950 taps. According to Mark, the average tree gets 25 taps. Mark rents trees for 25 cents a tap or gives the owner free maple syrup for the use of the tree.

When the taps began to produce more syrup than his family could use, he gave some to neighbors. As he started tapping more and more trees, Mark sold the maple syrup in 32-gallon bulk drums to businesses. Eventually he started canning it in gallon tins, one-half gallon,

(Turn to Page A24)

## Small-Scale Pork Producers Need Professional Attitude

VERNON ACHENBACH, JR.

And

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — Pork producers should be able to get through the year at least breaking even, but as an industry, recruiting employees and improving labor relations need to be addressed quickly.

Those assessments were given by several of the speakers who talked to hundreds of pork produc-

ers on Wednesday during the 1992 Keystone Pork Congress, held at the Penn Harris Inn in Camp Hill.

H. Louis Moore, Penn State agricultural economist, predicted hog prices in the 41-cent range, and probably a little lower would prevail, he said.

Moore is a well-known speaker and has addressed other livestock producer meetings this late winter and predicted a slow growth of the economy, and either a no-change or slight change for the agriculture

prices.

Beef production and poultry production are high, he said, and the extra meat will keep down the demand for pork, even though pork isn't as high in abundance.

Pennsylvania production is projected to be about the same as last year, while the national production is estimated to increase several points over last year, indicating that production increases are happening outside of the state.

(Turn to Page A30)

## New York State Dairy Princess Crowned

SYRACUSE, NY — Lorelei Crane from Bliss, New York in Wyoming County was crowned the 1992-93 New York State Dairy Princess on Tuesday. The 29th annual coronation was held at the Sheraton Inn in Syracuse, New York, sponsored by the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council, Inc. (ADADC). As state princess, Crane received a \$1,200 scholarship and becomes a leading spokesperson for New York's dairy industry in the upcoming year.

Tara Williamson of Greenwood, New York was named first Alternate State Princess. She received a \$700 scholarship. Kerri Benson of New Lebanon, New York was selected as second Alternate State Princess. She

(Turn to Page A25)



Lorelei Crane was crowned the New York State Dairy Princess this week in Syracuse. In the photo are, from left, Kerri Benson, second runnerup; Princess Crane and Tara Williamson, first runnerup.

## Ag Teachers Fight Agricultural Illiteracy

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.

Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Robert Lauffer did not grow up on a farm, however, he did work on a farm — for eight years.

Does he know farming?

Recently, Lauffer said that it seemed strange how many people, especially farmers, automatically equate knowledge of farming and agriculture with the choice of occupation by one's parents.

Lauffer knows better. As agriculture teacher at Garden Spot High School in New Holland, Lauffer's job is to teach agriculture.

And while that is his job, his goal is to instill "agricultural literacy" into all students across Pennsylvania, most of whom did not grow up on farms.

Through his and some others'

efforts, more people are agreeing with and adopting that goal. There are fellow teachers and legislators who are like-minded, but the battle needs support from many others, he said.

For decades in the United States, agriculture has not been regarded by academia (outside of the agricultural colleges) as a subject by which literacy would even be questioned.

School curriculums seem to reflect a perspective of agriculture

that it is not a highly important subject for study by anyone, except those who grew up on a farm.

Other than the "vo-ag" classes for the "farmer kids," no other courses offered in curriculums, even science, include any discussion of agriculture in anything but a cursory manner.

Lauffer and others are attempting to have that changed.

In addition to being a teacher,

(Turn to Page A28)



Lebanon Countian Barbara Grumbine is the new Northeast area director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Grumbine, her husband Dennis, and two sons are well known in political and agricultural circles. For more about Grumbine, turn to page B2.

### INDEX

Sec. A...Market Reports  
& General News.

Sec. B...Women's News

Sec. C...Business News  
& Classified 4-36.

Sec. D...Classified 1-3.

Sec. E...Public Sales &  
Mailbox Market

See Story Index Page A3.