

# Lancaster Farming

VOL. 37 No. 23 Four Sections Lancaster Farming, Saturday, April 18, 1992 60¢ Per Copy 19.00 Per Year

## Lancaster DHIA Members Receive Transfer Release Forms

**EVERETT NEWSWANGER**  
Managing Editor

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)—Officials of the Red Rose DHIA in Lancaster began to circulate individual release forms to all their members early this week. These forms give each local member the opportunity to show support for the position of the Red Rose Directors and request their individual cow and herd records to be released from Pennsylvania DHIA to the processing center at Raleigh, North Carolina.

To reach the more than 1,100 Lancaster members, the eighteen supervisors were given the forms to deliver to their farmers. According to Red Rose President Robert Wenger, this method was used because by mail the farmers may not read it for some time over the spring field work season, and no one would be able to keep records of who wanted to do what. Because the supervisors will deliver the release forms as they make their circuit, the total results of the project will not be known for about a month.

The effort to get individual release forms for each Lancaster DHIA member is the next step in the ongoing discussion between Lancaster Red Rose and Pennsylvania DHIA over the request to

transfer records from Pennsylvania to Raleigh.

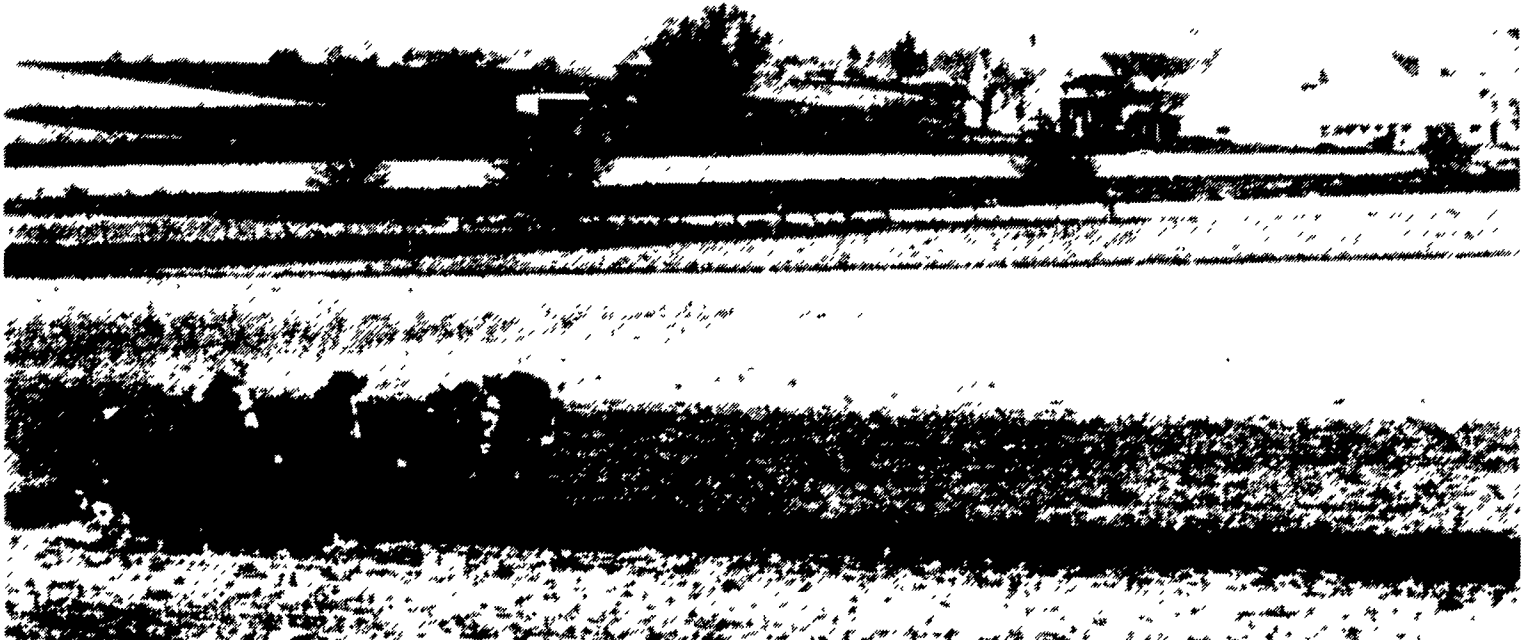
"We want to remain tied to Pennsylvania, and we are not breaking up Pennsylvania by doing this," Wenger said. "Because Lancaster

County is unique with a number of situations that are totally different from the rest of the state, we need to provide some services for our members from out of state that are not being provided here."

Wenger said the major need was for laptop computers used on the farm to provide same-day information for AM/PM program users and members with large herds. In addition, the increased same-day on-

the-farm information would help the local association be competitive with the private businesses that provide owner sampler milk testing services in the county.

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In spring the farmers' thoughts turn to plowing. In Lancaster County some of the energy used to plow can literally be called "horse power." With only 12.9 total inches of snow in the county this year, the Amish farmers have had an open

winter to get a head start on field work. Everett Newswanger, managing editor, photographed this scene Tuesday afternoon at the corner of Musser School Road and Grofdale Road, northwest of Intercourse.

## Pennsylvania Farmers Association Holds PAC Fund Raiser

**VERNON ACHENBACH, JR.**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
**HERSHEY** (Dauphin Co.)—One hundred-fifty farmers, legislators, lobbyists and other politically active, agriculturally directed people attended a fund raising dinner Wednesday at the Hershey Country Club to bene-

fit the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA) political action committee.

The PFA political action committee (PAC) is FARMER. FARMER is an acronym for "Farmers Allied for Responsive More Effective Representation."

The funds are used to help re-

elect politicians viewed as supporting or representing PFA goals and policies and for furthering other legislative goals.

The exact amount raised was not yet calculated by presstime. Tickets were \$125 per person, or \$175 per couple.

The keynote speaker was Gary

Blumenthal, deputy assistant to the President of the United States for Cabinet Liaison and special assistant for Agricultural Trade and Food Assistance.

Also during the evening, prior to dinner, a farewell reception was held for Richard Newpher, PFA administrative secretary who is to

be the new executive director of the American Farm Bureau Federation, the parent organization to PFA, based in Washington, D.C.

Blumenthal has served as chief of staff and executive assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, and from 1983 to 1989, he served (Turn to Page A21)

## Jerseys Are Tops, Says New State Queen

**CONNIE LEINBACH**  
Berks Co. Correspondent  
**SHARTLESVILLE** (Berks Co.)—Jerseys are the cows of the future, proclaims the new state Jersey Queen.

Marsha Ann Chess, a junior at Stoneboro Wesleyan School in Mercer County, was crowned queen at the Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Club annual meeting last week at Haag's Hotel in Shartles-

ville, Berks County.

She succeeds Melanie Dietrich of Newburg.

One of five candidates for the title, Chess presented a monologue as though she was talking on the phone to a little boy about the advantages of Jerseys.

Her presentation captured the judges' attention.

"We liked her presentation and she had a good interview," said

Connie Troutman of Mohrsville. Troutman, Mike Firestine of Womelsdorf, and Patricia Stroup of Greencastle were the judges.

The alternate Jersey queens are Noel Scheib, a student at Eastern College, St. Davids, and Shannon Peterman, a sophomore ag economics major at The Pennsylvania State University.

Chess, who owns 41 Jerseys, (Turn to Page A28)

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Melanie Dietrich, left, last year's state Jersey Queen, hands over the reigns to the new queen, Marsha Ann Chess.

## Despite Mounting Pressures, Delaware Century Farm Perseveres

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff

MIDDLETOWN, Del. — Hill Island Farm has weathered a lot of storms — a tornado which touched down in June 1988 just scraped by the old homestead. Developers have put enormous pressure to turn many of the 266 tillable acres into a golf course. A proposed Rt. 13 alternative roadway, which would have torn right through the corn

farm, was narrowly defeated.

Through it all, the owners have insisted they have a right to farm and a right to the land that has fueled their livelihood through eight generations.

And now, through the work of owners W. Gail Smith and her children, S. Rodmond "S.R." Smith III and Lea Smith Carl, Hill Island Farm perseveres as a Delaware Century Farm.

A nominee for the National Register of Historic Places, the farm is nestled between St. Andrews School (where the film, "Dead Poets Society," was made) and "Hell Island" on the Appoquinimink River in New Castle County.

Rich heritage  
Hill Island Farm has a rich heritage. Founded circa 1720 by agri- (Turn to Page A34)