

# Lancaster Farming

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The Semmel family in Schnecksville has maintained a registered Holstein herd on their Dairy of Distinction Farm for years. In fact, State Representative Paul Semmel, far right, said the registration dates back to the 1920s. From left, farmhand Titus Bennicoff, 19 and family members Shannon, 16; Andrea, 24; Jerry Fleck, herd manager; and Nancy and Paul Semmel. Photo by Andy Andrews

## Lehigh Dairy Of Distinction Truly 'Representative'

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff

SCHNECKSVILLE (Lehigh Co.) — Nancy Semmel remembers a neighbor saying to her, "I can visualize this farm being a golf course. We need a golf course in this area, and I can see this farm being a golf course."

The North Whitehall area northwest of Allentown, where the Semmels live, exemplifies the struggle — huge, thriving potato fields, swine operations, beef farms, and dairies taken by development. The once livestock-rich Lehigh Valley area is now the bedroom community of suburbanites commuting to Allentown or home to New Jersey retirees. The land surrounding the Semmel residence, once made up of vegetable

and small grain farms, now holds multi-thousand dollar houses with three-car garages and apartment complexes.

But farming continues apace at the Dairy of Distinction Excelsior Farm, operated by the Semmel family, which includes State Representative (R-187th District) Paul W. Semmel, wife Nancy, and children Lisa, 29; Andrea, 24; and Shannon, 16. In addition, the farm has the full-time help of herdsman Jerry Fleck and farmhand Titus Bennicoff.

The farm, comprising 140 tillable (and an additional 75 rented) is home to 73 milking and six dry registered Holsteins, and another 100 young stock. The farm milks from a freestall house/stanchion

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## Andrews Named 'Ag Journalist Of Year'

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — Andy Andrews, Lancaster Farming staff writer, has been named "Ag Journalist of the Year" by PennAg Industries Association.

Andrews will be honored next month for a series of articles in mid-December 1991 about a report describing the importance of manure storage safety. The two-part series described how farmers may be endangering their lives working in manure structures and how many storage facilities in the state had serious shortcomings in safety, operation, and maintenance. The series described various ways farmers can recognize and work to correct the problems.

The award will be presented at PennAg's 114th Convention to be held September 13-15 at the Mountain Laurel Resort in White Haven.

PennAg, an Ephrata-based agribusiness trade organization, sponsors the journalism contest to promote excellence in writing on agribusiness.

A Lancaster County native, Andrews is a graduate of Garden Spot High School, New Holland.



Andy Andrews

He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from Temple University, Philadelphia. Prior to joining Lancaster Farming in 1990, he was a senior technical editor for Semcor, Inc., Warminster and a communications specialist for Lukens, Inc., Coatesville.

## Lebanon Extension Celebrates 75th

VERNON ACHENBACH, JR.

Lancaster Farming Staff

NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.) — Lebanon County celebrated its 75th anniversary of extension service Wednesday night in the festively decorated new show barn at the county fairgrounds.

Several hundred people attended the several-hour event,

which was highlighted with presentations of the extension's history and testimonies as to the continued value of the service.

In addition, county political representatives, including state Sen. David "Chip" Brightbill, Rep. Ed Arnold, Rep. Ed Krebs, and county commissioners William Carpenter, Phil Feather and Rose Marie

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## Sheep Is Supreme At Elizabethtown



Ryan Tracy shows off his Suffolk yearling ewe, named supreme champion animal at the Elizabethtown Fair. With Tracy is Fair Queen Jennifer Fouse and John Groff of Groff's Meats, which provides the trophy.

LOU ANN GOOD  
Lancaster Farming Staff

ELIZABETHTOWN (Lancaster Co.) — Four judges deliberated overtime as they sought to choose the most perfect animal shown at the Elizabethtown Fair this week.

To the cheers of the crowd gathered underneath the tent for the Supreme Champion contest, Ryan Tracy's Suffolk yearling ewe was pinpointed as the perfect example of the sheep species. The Suffolk competed against Janelle Wivel's Holstein cow, Peter Hofines Charolais-Angus steer, and Kevin Pfautz's Duroc-Hampshire hog, to earn the traveling trophy given annually to the supreme champion winner.

"This Suffolk yearling ewe has style, flash, and balance. It's the perfect example of its breed with its jet black points and head. It has a clean, refined neck and muscling through the top into its hindquarters," judge Natalie Glunz told the crowd.

Tracy is the 12-year-old son of Gerald and Helen Tracy of Elizabethtown. He purchased the

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