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# Lancaster Farming

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## New Status Topic Of Discussion At Lancaster DHIA Annual Meeting

EVERETT NEWSWANGER  
Managing Editor

their records processing to Raleigh and lab testing to Maryland. The dining room at Good and Plenty Restaurant was packed.

"The best way to summarize the happenings in the last year is to say we have had many changes, many meetings, and many frustrations," said Robert Wenger, president.

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BIRD-IN-HAND (Lancaster Co.)—In what was described as "the largest group of dairy farmers from one county in any meeting I ever attended," the Lancaster DHIA held its first annual meeting after completing the transfer of



At the Lancaster DHIA banquet are, left to right, Robert Wenger, president; John Howard, high production award; Harold Probst, top technician performance award and 35 years of service; and Jay Mylin, county manager.



Brian Miller mixes feed for the cows. After more than two years working construction, he returned to the home farm for the life he loves.

## DHIA Names Miller Farm Improved Holstein Herd

VERNON ACHENBACH, JR.  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
MARTIN'S CREEK (Northampton Co.) — Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association has named the Frank Miller Jr. farm in Northampton County as the most improved Holstein dairy herd in the state.

The news came as a surprise to Frank Miller and family, they said, not only because the were also honored for having the highest averaging protein production in the state at 885 pounds per cow, but because they haven't really changed much of how they farm for at least 10 years.

But the surprise recognition was

a happy one, Frank said, and reflects the all-for-one family attitude.

DHIA records show that their 50- to 60-head mostly registered Holstein herd has averaged more than 21,000 pounds of milk for at least the past four years. This past year, it is up to 27,479 pounds of milk, 983 pounds of fat and 885 pounds of protein on two-times-per-day milking.

Last year, their ending herd average was 23,296 pounds of milk, 859 pounds of fat and 765 pounds of protein, and ranked them third in the county.

Also, their somatic cell counts

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## Wrights Receive Guernsey Award

C.J. HOUGHTALING  
Tioga Co. Correspondent  
CANTON (Bradford Co.) —

The icy wind may sting with the bite of winter, but Way View Farm, home of Wrights' Golden Guernseys, emits a warmth that's down-home country friendly and inviting. It's even evident in the welcome sign posted on the front lawn. Upon meeting the owners, Lyle and Laureen Wright, it's easy to see where this warmth comes from.

They have a deep faith in God, strong sense of humor, and a genuine love for their work. Their partnership — for indeed, they are partners in every sense, working side-by-side in the barn as well as the field — generates a happiness that overflows.

And it reflects in their animals. From their dogs, a pair of peep-pops and a collie cross, to their barn cats, far from the aloof and skittish commonly found on farms, to their cows who even reach out their heads to be nuzzled by strangers, it's obvious these

creatures are well cared for.

Perhaps this is the secret to the Wrights' success. They recently

received the DHIA Herd Management Award in the Guernsey division. (Turn to Page A24)



Brenda, one of the Wrights' top cows, poses with Lyle and Laureen for a photo.

## Proper Well Construction First Step In Water Quality

Editor's Note: In part 1 of the water quality series last week, Lancaster Farming interviewed a farmer who discovered problems with well water quality and what he did about it. Also, a DER report emphasized the need for closer monitoring of wells. In part 2, Lancaster Farming emphasizes the importance of wellhead construction, quality, and maintenance.

Protect groundwater — it's your drinking water. — Sign on door of ag extension office.

ANDY ANDREWS  
Lancaster Farming Staff

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — About 10 years ago on a hot September day, Clark Stauffer remembers when the valve caps blew off accidentally and the dangerous anhydrous ammonia gas began floating between the barn buildings.

Trying everything to stop it, and knowing the gas could end up killing his livestock, Stauffer quickly hauled the tank away from the barn into a nearby field. The spill couldn't be contained. So two tons

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Please Find Pennsylvania DHIA Newsletter, Pages C12-C14. Profiles Of Herd Management Award Winners Throughout This Issue.