



Gordon Hiller, the new Pennsylvania Grange master, brings a lifetime of experience in dealing with rural affairs to the state office.

Hiller Hopes To Revitalize Grange With People Orientation

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—With a lifetime experience of farming and working for government agencies, including PDA and EPA, Gordon Hiller, the new Pennsylvania State Grange master, brings many personal qualifica-

tions into his quest to revitalize the 33,000 member rural organization. Hiller was elected to the highest office in the organization at the 120th annual meeting held in Williamsport in October. Hiller received his 50 year pin at the convention.

After retiring from his position as regional director of PDA in the Williamsport area several years ago, Hiller used his new-found time to again become active in the organization that had captured his attention as a teenager when he was president of his local FFA chapter. In those early years, he was a local Grange master even before he was married. He has continued an active interest in Grange activities, most recently as part of the executive committee and has helped with a national training program for Grange leadership.

When Gordon and Mrs. Hiller started to farm, the need for contour strips and other conservation practices created the seeds of interest in conservation as a way of life. For these conservation practices and his efforts to start a conservation district in Lycoming County, Hiller won the Goodyear Conservation Award.

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Holiday Deadlines

The *Lancaster Farming* office will be closed Friday, January 1, in observance of New Year's day. Early deadlines for the last week of December are as follows:

Public Sale Ads—Noon, Thur., 12/24.

Mailbox Markets—Noon, Thur., 12/24.

General News—Noon, Tue. 12/29.

Classified Section C Ads—5 p.m., Mon. 12/28.

All Other Classified Ads—9 a.m., Tue. 12/29.

The *Lancaster Farming* office will also have early deadlines for our Pennsylvania Farm Show issue. Because of the opening of the Farm Show late in the first full week in January, deadlines will be as follows:

Public Sale Ads — Noon, Mon., 1/4.

Mailbox Markets — Noon, Mon., 1/4.

General News — Noon, Wed., 1/6.

Classified Section C Ads — 5 p.m., Tue., 1/5.

All Other Classified Ads — 9 a.m., Wed. 1/6.

Kreager Farm Is Diamond In Coal Country

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
FRIEDENSBURG (Schuylkill Co.) — Dairy and cash crop farmer Ken Kreager, 64, stood staring at a 15-foot American chestnut tree.

He discovered it on the edge of a tree line on neighboring rented property while driving to and from a field.

The tree, really a sprout, was starting to show signs of disease. It was apparently drawing strength from old root stock which has managed to retain an energy balance, he surmised.

A living symbol of a time past, the root energy of the original tree (by now very old) allows it to continue pushing out into an inhospitable world, where it gains just enough energy from the sun to store in the roots for perhaps

another sprout which may grow about 15 feet.

Then that sprout dies.

The original tree root continues to survive without reproducing itself.

It may continue to exist for perhaps another hundred years if the environment which surrounds it remains undisturbed.

The analogy to single family farming is almost inevitable.

The American chestnut tree as a species is existent, but only in a vestigial form.

Early European Americans and European business interests with abilities in world trade took many of the tall, straight, strong trees for structural beams and boards for all kinds of building construction, from houses and barns to covered bridges.

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Ken and Beatrice Kreager flank daughter Arlene in front of their Schuylkill County Diamond Farm. The pines in the back were planted by Ken's grandmother. The house incorporates the original log home.



Re-elected and newly elected directors of Atlantic Dairy Cooperative are, from left, H. Wallace Cook Jr., Charles E. Schilling, Robert B. McSparran, L. Elmer Vickers, David N. Ross, Rhelda E. Royer, and Thomas W. Powell.

Atlantic Dairy Elects Officers, Directors

SOUTHAMPTON (Bucks Co.) — Atlantic Dairy Cooperative's board of directors elected officers for the 1992-1993 fiscal year and announced the results of director elections at the cooperative's annual meeting.

Robert B. McSparran of Peach Bottom was elected to his 13th term as president of the cooperative. The Lancaster County dairy farmer has served on the board for 26 years.

McSparran and his wife, Charlotte, own and operate a 300-acre farm and milk a mixed herd of 60

Guernsey and Holstein cows. They are in partnership with their son, John W. McSparran.

Re-elected as first vice president was Ivo V. Otto Jr. of Carlisle. Otto has been a member of Atlantic for 42 years, serving on the board of directors for 25 years. He and his family operate a 388-acre farm in Cumberland County and milk 135 Folslein cows.

Elected to his sixth term as second vice president was Roy W. Hetrick of Bernville. Hetrick has

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