

Lancaster Farming

Farmers Propose Agricultural Nutrient Management

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — Two Lancaster County farmers this week presented for public review their draft for a law

which would create a new government system for treating agricultural operations in a holistic manner and shield farmers from normal environmental prosecution channels.

The plan is called "Agricultural Resources Act."
According to Allen Weicksel, organizer and spokesman for the Family Farm Movement, and Donald Rank, treasurer and rep-

resentative of the Lancaster County Farmers' Association, their proposal is an alternative to negotiated nutrient management legislation already approved in writing by all major farm and environmental organizations, the state Department of Agriculture, the governor, and other interests.

Whether or not the concept will be taken seriously by legislators is uncertain.

As of presstime, no elected representatives were associated with

the proposal or the two men. Also, Weicksel and his group, which consists of Amish and Mennonite farmers who normally shy from public activism, were practically lone opponents against the plan currently embraced by the state farm associations.

The draft submitted for public perusal was printed in the format of a legislator's official proposal.

While the draft itself was too incomplete to convey a workable
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The Davis family, from left, Janet and Emery with Nathan; Janelle and Stephen; and standing, Lauren and Rick.

Davis Family Honored In Tioga County

C.J. HOUGHTALING
Tioga Co. Correspondent
MIDDLEBURY CENTER (Tioga Co.) — No two were more surprised to learn the Davis Family was the 1992 recipient of the PADHIA Herd Management Award for Tioga County than Rick and Janelle Davis.

As last year's winners of the DHIA Top Milk Herd Award, with an average of 22,319 pounds of milk, an increase of 1,089 pounds over the previous year. Rick said he didn't expect another large increase in production. But as the DHIA comparison report confirmed, the Davises' production again increased 1,473 pounds to a total of 23,792 for 1992. Fat content increased from 795 to 884 and protein increased from 715 to 773.

"We certainly don't expect an increase like that next year," Janelle said.

The increases on the Davis farm were an accomplishment to be noted, especially considering the county average for all herds decreased in all three categories from 1991 to 1992. And the Dav-

ises have stayed above the state averages in milk, fat and protein production for the past three years.

If Rick was to name his formula for success, it would be consistency. "We don't do anything special. Just the same thing day in and day out. We try to give them good feed and good breeding, but I'd say overall, being consistent in a daily routine is the best thing for our cows."

Rick and his father Emery work a farm that was started by Emery's dad in the 1920s. The main farm is a consolidation of three separate farms purchased over the years to total 245 acres. The Davises also own another farm with 128 acres known as the Hulbert Place and Rick and Janelle live on a fourth farm, formerly owned by Rick's grandfather Taylor, which is adja-

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'Farmer Friendly' Legislation Key, Wenger Tells Pork Producers

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Creating a bill that is "farmer friendly" is the key to signing nutrient management legislation into law, according to Sen. Noah Wenger (R-Stevens), who spoke Thursday night at the Lancaster Swine Producers' Association annual meeting and banquet.

Wenger, minority member of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, commented about the attempt two months ago

to rush through S.B. 1444, an environmental education bill that carried a nutrient management legislation "rider," before the close of the session. Wenger called the wording on that bill "considerably better," but said "it seemed like a rush kind of thing" and really should have taken more time to see farmer input and consideration.

Wenger updated the Lancaster-Chester pork producers about the status of nutrient management
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Farm And Home Foundation Reviews Year

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — "Good leadership is hard to come by but we have a very good board to get things done," Ken Rutt told those attending the 29th annual banquet of the Farm and Home Foundation.

At the January 19th banquet, members elected seven directors and reviewed opportunities for extension services in Albania, Poland, and Russia.

The seven newly-elected directors will join those with unexpired terms for a combined board of 21

directors. The board oversees the Farm and Home Center, a multi-purpose facility that serves rural and urban interests. The Center, built in 1968, is a living monument to the county's agriculture and agribusiness industry.

One of the major functions of the board is to award scholarships for the study of agriculture and family living.

Extension director John Schwartz reported that 18 applications have been received for Farm and Home Center scholarships this year. Of those, 10 will be selected
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Corn Growers Release Five Acre Results

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association (PMCGA) has announced the winners of its 1992 Five Acre Corn Club Program.

Awards were made for both three-year yield averages as well as for highest yields during 1992.

One hundred and thirty five corn growers participated in the program this year. This year's results reflected the excellent growing season in many areas of southern Pennsylvania.

Yields were a record high, averaging 163.4 bushels per acre. Seven entrants reported yields of more than 200 bushels per acre and another 38 reported yields of more than 175 bushels.

For the 1992 classes, first place in the large harvest shelled corn class went to Clarence Keener Jr. from Lancaster with a yield of 211 bushels per acre. In the regular harvest size class, Larry E. Moyer of Mertztown took the honors with a yield of 214 bushels per acre.

The first place award in the ear corn hand harvest class was won by Glenn Bros. Dairy from McConnellsburg with a yield of 213 bushels per acre. Kenneth Schlegel of Fleetwood took the top honors in the machine harvest ear corn class with a yield of 191 bushels per acre.

In the three year average class for shelled corn harvested from a

large (more than 3 acres) sample, first place was awarded to William Bissinger from Bloomsburg with an average yield of 165 bushels per acre. Second and third place in this class went to D. Richard Snyder of Mountoursville and Daryl Alger of Palmyra with average yields of 161 and 155 bushel per acre, respectively.

In the three year average class for shelled corn harvested from a regular (less than three acres) sample, first place was awarded to Paul Lechner from Oley with a yield of 189 bushels per acre. Second and third places in this class went to Donald Lichtenwalner of Macungie and Joe Matejka of Mechanicsville with average yields of 187 and 185 bushels per acre, respectively.

In the ear corn class, the three-year average first place award went to Lester Poust of Muncy, who has averaged 187 bushels per acre. Second and third place awards went to Sid Lewis from Wysox and Sandy Ridge Farms from Shipperville, with yields of 177 and 163 bushels per acre, respectively.

Awards will be presented at the Pennsylvania Corn Conference, to be held in March. The Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association has more than 350 members statewide.

For more information, contact Greg Roth, executive secretary, PMCGA, (814) 863-1018.