

Top Strawberries

(Continued from Page A1)

two and a half hours. From these he chose the most uniform in size and color to arrange in a berry box for judging.

His patch of 100 plants is the Earliglow variety because he and his parents, Nelson and Alma, believe the berries are the best tasting. Of the Wengers' four sons, one raised strawberries in previous years but never achieved grand championship. A younger son, Troy, placed fourth this year. Although the brothers raise the same variety, they have separate patches for their 4-H projects.

It's important to have the right consistency in the soil and not many stones, Neil said. Last fall, he added corn fertilizer to the soil before he rototilled it.

"I keep it (the patch) really clean," he said. "You'd have to search at least five minutes before you could find one weed."

Last year, he watered the patch because of the dry weather, but this

year, he depended entirely upon the rain to soak the soil. He sells some of the berries but depends on his mother to make most of them into jelly or as topping for pancakes, short cakes, and ice cream.

Neil, who is 14 and attends Manheim Central Junior High School, said it's a bit early to tell whether or not he will go to college, but he is banking the prize money.

When Neil isn't in school or working in the strawberry patch, he helps on the family's 115-acre farm with 50 milking cows plus replacements.

This was the second year that Joel, a previous champion, took the reserve championship for his berries. He has 300 plants of Earliglow and Raritan in his patch that he has been tending for five years. He credits his consistent wins to the deep, rich soil made fertile from the family's compost pile.

The Lancaster Mennonite High School freshman has been hoard-

ing the prize money and the profits from selling berries at a roadside stand for college costs. He estimates that he has earned more than \$700 from his strawberry venture.

The Rotary Club holds the annual strawberry auction to encourage entrepreneurship among the youth. Auctioneer Harold Keller said that Rotary members' bids keep the American dream — financial rewards for hard work — alive.

Zoann Parker, 4-H extension agent, said that quality and quantity was evident in the strawberries and this was the biggest competi-

tion ever.

Judge Bruce Hellerick, horticulture agent, agreed. "It was fun to judge because I got to taste one from each box; at the same time it was difficult because the berries were almost all top quality."

This is the day that makes all the club members' work at mulching, picking blossoms and berries worth something, Parker said.

After the champion and reserve entries were sold, the remaining entries were auctioned and brought prices from \$22 to \$40 each.

Additional 4-H'ers who partici-

pated include the following: Lynn Ressler, Peach Bottom; Joseph Brubaker, Quarryville; Jimmy Mullen, Peach Bottom; Marilyn and Melissa Holloway, Peach Bottom; Randy Ebersole, Lancaster; Carolyn Ranch, Leola; Steve Leaman, Lancaster; Marc Seigrist, Bird-in-Hand; Durrelle Leaman, Lancaster; Derek Stoner, Lancaster; Diana Erb, Lancaster; Michael Yost, Lancaster; Mark Leaman, Lancaster; Kendra Bucher, Manheim; Troy Wenger, Manheim; Joel Henderson, Manheim; Jeremy Shelley, Elizabethtown; and Kandi Mullen, Peach Bottom.



Needed immediately:



60' x 496' ASP breeder house

- Contract commercial breeder houses for American Selected Products, Milton, Pa.
- Preferable within 60 miles of Selinsgrove, Pa
- New housing
- Remodeled existing housing
- Single story, deep pit or high rise
- Automatic feeding, ventilation and egg gathering

Call: Tom Weidman

Northeast Agri Systems 1-800-673-2580

- Call Northeast Agri Systems For information on new contracts being offered by other local feed and livestock companies

Contracts available for

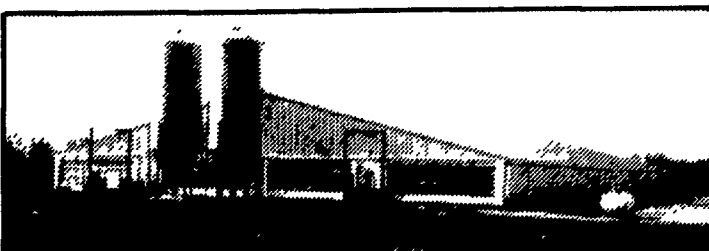
- Tom & hen turkeys: 7,200-15,000 birds



Two 50'x620' tom turkey houses

Contracts available for

- Hog finishing: 1,000-3,000 head
- Sow units: 200-1,800 sows



101'x245' 3000 head tunnel ventilated hog finishing house

Contracts available for

- Layer houses: 90,000-126,000 birds



108,864 bird CHORE-TIME layer house with ULTRAFLO® feeding

Northeast
agri
systems

Northeast Agri Systems, Inc.

FLYWAY BUSINESS PARK
139 A West Airport Rd. Lititz, PA 17543
(717) 569-2702 1-800-673-2580



FATHER'S
DAY
June 20th

give dad our best

Give him a
subscription to

Lancaster Farming

Subscription Price:

\$19.75 per year; \$37.50 - 2 years

\$30.00 per year outside of:

PA, NJ, OH, MD, DE, NY, VA & WV

• P.S. - Don't Forget Your Father-In-Law!

PLEASE SEND MY FATHER LANCASTER FARMING

(Check one)

- ☐ \$19.75 - 1 YEAR
- ☐ \$37.50 - 2 YEARS
- ☐ \$30.00 - 1 YEAR
- ☐ \$58.00 - 2 YEARS

☐ NEW SUBSCRIPTION

☐ RENEWAL

ENCLOSED IS A

☐ CHECK ☐ CASH ☐ MONEY ORDER

(To help correctly code your address, please furnish COMPLETE address. As an example, include number of the dwelling, street name, city and state. When appropriate, include other specific information such as suite, apartment, floor, box number, etc. If you have an R.D., please include Box Number)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP +4 _____

COUNTY _____

Send Gift Card From _____

Send us your coupon now with your payment to:

Lancaster Farming

P.O. Box 609

Ephrata, PA 17522

Allow 2 weeks for delivery of your first issue. We can also add 1 year to existing subscriptions sent in for renewal.