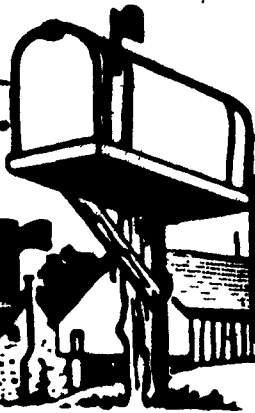


# Lancaster Farming



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## Main Family At Home With Dairy Of Distinction

**BONNIE BRECHBILL**  
Franklin Co. Correspondent  
**MERCERSBURG** (Franklin Co.) — When Monie Main was thinking about moving his family off the farm they rented near Walkersville, Maryland, he had each family member write down what they wanted in a farm. His son Matt chose a pond, daughter Libby a house with a balcony, and wife Liza a brick barn with figures. Monie's wish was that the entire farm be tillable except for a hillside for the cows to lay on.

newest Dairy of Distinction. Because the farm had been used for beef cattle, the Mains had to do some work to convert it to a commercial dairy operation. They put in a double-6 parlor with individual weighers and automatic take-offs, set up so that one person can milk.

They also added a manure pit and a large freestall barn to house their 150 cows. The freestall barn is open in the front, and was constructed to provide lots of air and open space. Because of the open front, snow blew in during last March's blizzard. "It's made for the other 364 days of the year," Monie said.

Everyone's wish was fulfilled when they purchased a farm just outside of Mercersburg on Route 16 three years ago.

"Monie came up to a sale and saw this farm and thought I might like the house, and I came up, and I did!" Liza said. The limestone house, built in 1794, has nine large rooms and two fireplaces.

Disease problems are few, and the cows are contented because of the amount of air. Built three years ago, the barn is situated at an angle on a slight ridge so that the sun is always shining in.

The house was structurally sound and well-insulated. "We were fortunate," Liza said.

Two buildings — a wagon shed and a corn crib — had to be removed for the barn to be con-

The Main's farm is District 15's

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The Mains family and their hired man gather near the freestall barn. From left, they are Larry Diehl and Matt, Liza, Libby and Monie Mains.

## Giveaway Goes Long Way Toward Promoting Beef

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff

**FAIRFIELD** (Adams Co.) — On a warm night this past August, about 9,000 people who visited the Port Royal Speedway just west of Harrisburg got a special treat — a free hot roast beef sandwich courtesy of a producer who puts dollars on the line when it comes to promoting "real food for real people."

Bob Weikert, a livestock buyer

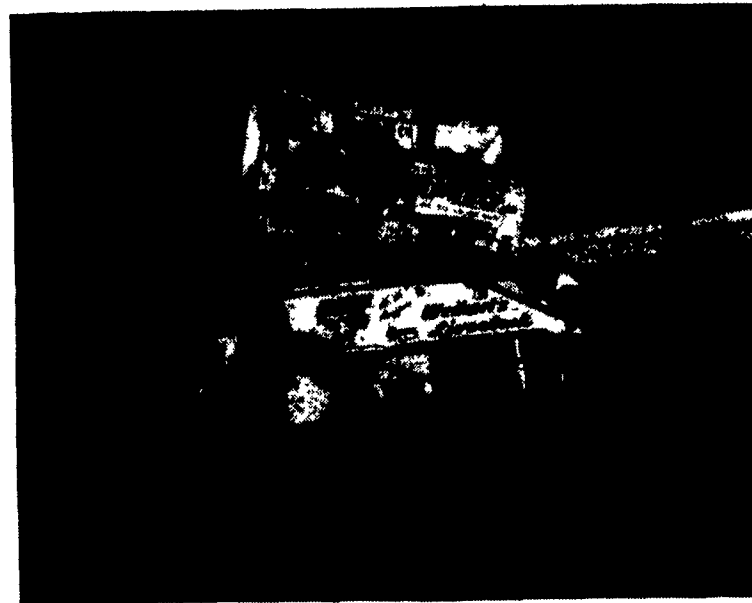
in Fairfield, believes "somebody's gotta do something" in promoting the value of beef to the general public. He provided the free sandwiches the second year in a row during Beef Night at the Speedway.

Owner of sprint car number 29 is proud of the promotion he provides for the industry by placing the message in clear print boldly at the top of the car, on the car's "wings."

Weikert's car makes several appearances at the big racing events to get the message out about the importance of eating beef. But the biggest event for Weikert was watching the many good results of the promotion. However, more needs to be done. He is working closely with the Beef Council to ensure promotional materials are provided by the Council to producers and others involved in the business to increase positive awareness toward beef.

"That was the best promo an individual has done this year," said Tammy Balthaser, industry relations/compliance manager for the Pennsylvania Beef Council, who helped at the event. "It was a super event, really worthwhile. It's nice to see producers helping to promote their product."

The Beef Council works closely with industry representatives to



Bob Weikert's sprint car acts as a flying billboard for nationwide beef promotion during Beef Night at the Port Royal Speedway. At the event, about 9,000 people received a free beef sandwich, courtesy of Weikert. Keith Kauffman pilots the car, which placed third at the event.

## Dairylea Reviews Year

**SYRACUSE, N.Y.** — During the past year, Dairylea continued to achieve strong positive financial results with a year-end profit representing a return of 19 percent on invested capital. The figures were announced by Rick Smith, Dairylea's chief executive officer at the Cooperative's annual meeting held this week in Liverpool.

627 dairy farmers joining Dairylea in the last 18 months. In comparison, the New York-New Jersey Milk Marketing Order's and the Northeast Milkshed's farm numbers decreased by 5.6 percent and 2.8 percent, respectively.

"Our organization had another strong year," Smith reported,

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More than 750 farmer members and industry guests attended the two-day event, which included a management presentation by Smith and an annual address by Dairylea President Clyde Rutherford.

During his presentation, Smith said that the Cooperative continued to pay a competitive price to dairy farmer members with milk sales increasing \$38 million, or 12.5 percent, over 1992. Total milk marketed by Dairylea increased from 2.2 billion pounds to 2.5 billion pounds, or 11.3 percent, as member and affiliate member milk production increased 15 percent.

The Cooperative experienced an increase in member farms, with

**VERNON ACHENBACH JR.**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) — An investigation into the environmental impact of milkhouse wastewater is ongoing, but a Department of Environmental Resources researcher has said that farmers who flush milkhouse wastewater into their manure storage are handling it properly.

Glen Rider, with the DER Bureau of Water Quality Management, Division of Permits and Compliance, said that, although research is continuing into the biological "strength" of milkhouse wastewater, the department con-

tinues to maintain its position that it approves of the practice of mixing milkhouse wastewater with manure as long as the composite is handled as manure.

Rider said the primary concern about milkhouse wastewater is when it is discharged into a subsurface system, such as an onlot septic system. Because of the expected high amount of organic matter and pipeline cleaner acid, it is suspected that slugs of milkhouse wastewater could overload the underground systems, causing environmental problems.

Also, many dairy farms have doubled or tripled in size since

many milking facilities were constructed, increasing the possibility that there are overburdened onlot, underground septic systems with problems.

Concern about milkhouse wastewater has not been strong and only seriously studied by the DER. A survey of milkhouse wastewater grab samples was initiated late last year and field collection conducted earlier this year.

Samples were taken from dairy farms across the state. A strong attempt was made to get actual milkhouse waste samples which represent the range of dairy farming operations.

"All the sampling results are back, from the survey that was done across the state," Rider said. "Right now we're in the process of reviewing all that data."

According to Rider, DER staff representing a number of disciplines within the department met last week for the first time to look at sample results. Eventually, DER staff are to compile an analysis and determine the degree of governmental involvement which should apply to discharging milkhouse wastewater into onlot, underground septic systems.

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## DER Milkhouse Wastewater Study Continues