

Lancaster Farming

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Vol. 39 No. 4 60¢ Per Copy Lancaster Farming, Saturday, December 4, 1993 Four Sections \$19.75 Per Year



Farm-City Week activities across the state bring together people of different backgrounds who are given an opportunity to view each others' perspectives on life. Here, standing, Vincent and Julie Wagner, open their family dairy farm to Carrol and Jean Ditzler, a husband and wife dentistry team from Lebanon.

Farm-City Activities Offer View Of Life

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
 Lancaster Farming Staff
MYERSTOWN (Lebanon Co.) — Vicent and Julie Wagner of Myerstown run an average size family farm dairy with their teenaged son Christopher and daughter Stephanie.

ties, the Wagners opened up their farm to share a day on the farm with a local dentist and his wife. The following week, the Wagners spent a day at the dentist's office, learning about a different type of business, but also run by a husband and wife team.

The Wagners have been featured in stories in this and other newspapers in the past because they are an example of a young couple who together not only built a family farm against formidable obstacles, but have immersed themselves into the dairy community, volunteering time and energy to try to make life better for themselves and those who surround them.

Through community involvement, the Wagners were exposed to the responsibilities and rewards of life as seen through the eyes of another couple.

Across the state, farm organizations and county area chamber of commerce organizations host a variety of Farm-City programs, all designed to allow the consuming public to understand more about life on the farm.

Recently, as part of the Lebanon County Farm-City program activi-

But there are many signs that the

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Nutrient Management Advisory Board Attacks Tough Issues

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
 Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The state Nutrient Management Advisory Board to the State Conservation Commission on Wednesday approved interim criteria for nutrient management plans, but didn't appear ready to advise on a method for determining which farms will be automatically excluded from filing mandatory nutrient management plans.

various segments of production agriculture and those with knowledge of it. The members are nominated by the state's major agricultural organizations and appointed by the chairman of the State Conservation Commission (i.e. the secretary of DER).

held in a room in the East Wing of the Capitol building in Harrisburg, and was scheduled in order for the board to make comment on recommendations for interim criteria for nutrient management planning prior to yesterday's scheduled meeting of the State Conservation Commission. (Held after the *Lancaster Farming* news deadline for this week.)

day (Friday, Dec. 6) to consider the interim criteria for nutrient management planning, which are to "provide direction to the Pa. Department of Agriculture for development of the certification

program and represent the basic concepts for development of plans under the Act."

In compliance with the Nutrient Management Act, signed into law

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The advisory board has no regulatory authority. Its purpose is to make recommendations to the commission. Under the Nutrient Management Act, the commission has authority to promulgate its own regulations.

According to a Nov. 27 letter from Michael Krempasky, executive secretary of the commission, to board members, the commission had been scheduled to meet yester-

Tillage Event Set

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Local and national issues affecting farmers will be addressed by most of the speakers at this year's six-state Mid-Atlantic Conservation Tillage Conference. The twentieth

annual event is set Dec. 16 at the Ramada Inn and Convention Center in Hagerstown, Md.

Specific topics will deal with changes in store for agriculture,

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This Boar Sires Champions, According To Strauss Brothers

ANDY ANDREWS
 Lancaster Farming Staff
STEVENS (Lancaster Co.) — Count them — eight champions out of the top 30 on the carcass evaluation contest at the barrow show at the recent Keystone International Livestock Expo (KILE). The champion on-rail. And the reserve champion crossbred on rail last year.

hog, because they have the genetics. From a purebred Hampshire boar the Strauss brothers purchased in October 1991 from Jim and Steve Earnhart in Albion, in northeast Indiana, they've bred a long list of show champions, including the champion hogs exhibited this year by their niece and nephew, Sarah and Gerald Boyd, from Ephrata.

They knew what they were looking for. They spotted the pig, acting "real aggressive," said

Rick, and "climbing the fence." Rick and Steve's mother, Mrs. Strauss, said, "I don't know how

many boars we went through 'til we got the one we wanted."

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The reason for such success? It's all in the boar, according to two brothers, Rick and Steve Strauss. The Strauss brothers believe they can raise a champion

What makes the boar so special? "It's no accident that you get some pigs that are going to really cut," said Rick Strauss. The Earnharts "have a line of hogs that's bred more for muscle leanness and they win carcass shows all over the place," said Rick. Several litter mates to the boar they purchased did well at several shows, including one at the National Barrow Show which sold for about \$7,500, according to Rick. That boar is sired by the half-brother to the Strauss boar.

The cost for the boar? Twelve hundred dollars, according to Rick. "Hampshires are supposed to be the best breed for muscle and leanness," said Steve, who traveled with Rick the 600 miles to obtain the boar. The animal "was the best investment we made," he said.



Rick, left, and Steve Strauss stand in back of the purebred Hampshire boar that sired several champions. Photo by Andy Andrews

Christmas Deadlines

The *Lancaster Farming* office will be closed Friday, December 24 in observance of Christmas day. Early deadlines will be followed the week of Christmas. These deadlines are as follows:
 Public Sale Ads — Noon, Mon., 12/20.
 Mailbox Markets — Noon, Mon., 12/20.
 General News — Noon, Wed., 12/22.
 Classified Section C Ads — 5 p.m., Tue., 12/21.
 All Other Classified Ads — 9 a.m., Wed., 12/22.