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Lancaster Farming

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To Preserve? Not Preserve? At Stake May Be A Family's Financial Future

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
POINT PHILLIP (Northampton Co.) — Daniel Schlegel, like many farmers in the slowly disappearing agricultural area north of Allentown, understands how hard it is to continue farming. Especially with some lots selling to development at \$30,000 per acre.

What's the sense of trying to maintain a small cash cropping operation, when the land is more valuable for developing than to continue to make a living as a grain farmer?

But Schlegel, who farms about 285 acres below the Blue Mountains in Moore Township, worries about the future. Will he have enough money to see him through retirement?

Will there be enough for his children's education?

During an interview recently at his farm, Schlegel, who farms part-time and works full-time as an air compressor mechanic, described how one farmland preservation meeting went with some of the local farmers. "It was not really an upbeat meeting," he said. "A lot of full-time farmers had serious doubts about the program."

If some lots sell at \$30,000 an acre, then is their farm worth \$3 million?

"Most of them don't have a son coming behind them that wants to farm, unfortunately," said

Schlegel. "And they feel that they're going to go until they can't do it anymore and then they're going to start to sell."

But not Schlegel. Instead, the third generation farmer wants to provide a future for his children.

Recently, he signed away development rights for his property. About 95 acres went through an easement purchase agreement

through the state Farmland Protection Board. Easement establishes a price (Turn to Page A28)



Daniel Schlegel, left, a third generation farmer in Northampton County, wants to provide a future for his children, including Billy, here. Recently, he signed away development rights for his property. About 95 acres went through an easement purchase agreement through the state Farmland Protection Board. In front is Reo, their purebred boxer. Photo by Andy Andrews.

PDA Advises Beef, Dairy Herd Owners Tighten Biosecurity

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — State Agriculture Secretary Boyd E. Wolff Thursday advised owners of Pennsylvania beef cattle and dairy herds to tighten biosecurity practices at their operations due to a disease that has affected dairy herds in western counties this spring.

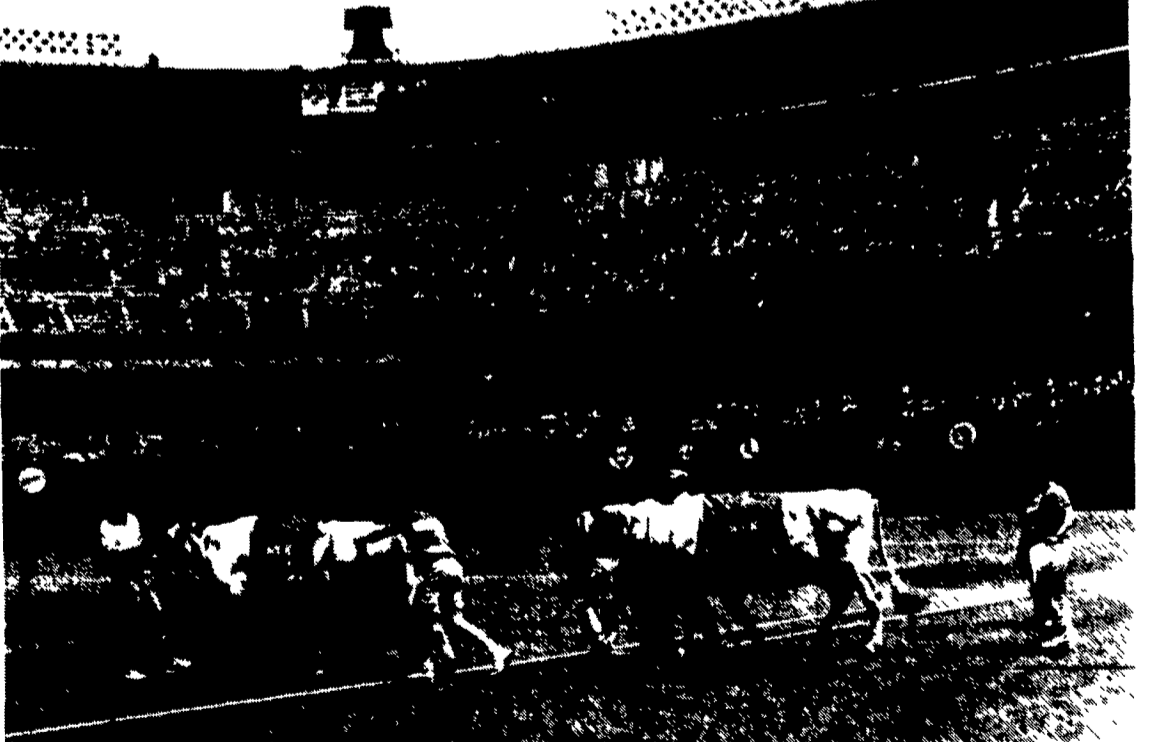
Testing has indicated that the animals may have been afflicted by BVD virus (bovine viral diarrhoea) or PI3 virus (parainfluenza), or a combination of both.

"Although the present outbreak of this disease appears to be subsiding, it is wise to take measures to ensure that it doesn't spread to other herds," Wolff said.

Cattle owners are advised to minimize unnecessary contacts with other herds and to consult veterinary practitioners for advice regarding protective measures.

Persons having contact with cattle exhibiting signs of, or known to have been exposed to

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The bovine stars head for the batter's box at home plate.

Bovine Stars Bring Milk Message To Millions At Baseball Game

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

PHILADELPHIA — Andy Stoltzfus, the Morgantown dairyman who has "gone to bat" for dairy promotion before, did it again for a Veterans Stadium full-house crowd prior to the Phillies/Mets baseball game Sunday. Well actually, it was Andy's two, mostly

white, squeaky-clean registered Holstein cows that came up to home plate to be milked for fun by two competing city-slicker teams that hardly knew which end of the cow to sit down to. But the teams were good sports and had a lot of fun.

And, like the Phillies who won 8 to 3 with a barrage of home runs,

the cows performed well too. No extra deposits on the green astro-turf meadow, no kicked buckets, no fighting the halter, very professionally relaxed, to give the winning team of Philadelphia radio and TV celebrities six-plus pounds of milk while the losing Philadelphia school district food services

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Office Will Be Closed Monday

Dairy Issue Coming Next Week

The annual dairy issue will come to you from *Lancaster Farming* next week. Special features on farm and herd management are scheduled, as well as messages from our advertisers.

In addition, the first of the annual dairy recipe presentation in Section B will be published, and our livestock, grain, and auction reports and regular columns will be in place.

Watch for next week's special tribute to the dairy farmers and agribusinesses which help provide the consumer with milk and all those other wholesome dairy products.

Special Note: Our office will be closed Monday, May 30 to observe Memorial Day. But our office will reopen for business at 8 a.m. Tuesday morning.