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# Lancaster Farming

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## Butler First Woman On Pa. DHIA Board

**C.J. HOUGHTALING**  
Tioga Co. Correspondent  
WELLSBORO (Tioga Co.) —  
With more and more women ad-

vancing beyond the home to make their mark in the world, it was only a matter of time before the state DHIA seated its first woman on

the board. Marian Butler is that woman. Elected in January and seated officially in April, this slender

woman with short, no-nonsense hair and large eyes that seem to take in everything represents District 18 which includes Tioga, Pot-

ter, and McKean counties. Butler came to the board well-prepared, having paid her dues at the local level as a bookkeeper and treasurer for three years before her county, Tioga, merged with the state board.

Since that merger, the local association became known as the Tioga County DHIA Advisory Council, maintaining a board of 12 members, which still includes Marian. She is also on the Technicians Training and Certification Advisory Committee, a position

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## Lancaster DHIA To Build Lab

**EVERETT NEWSWANGER**  
Managing Editor  
MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — The board of directors of the Lancaster DHIA voted Tuesday evening to construct a milk sample testing laboratory at the home of Jay Mylin, manager.

The idea behind the move is to provide quick turn-around on information obtained from the milk sample. With the close proximity of the laboratory to the local supervisors, samples can be brought to the lab the same day they are taken. By running the sample each day, the test results can be transferred to Raleigh by computer/telephone, processed and returned to Manheim by evening. Theoretically, on herds close to the lab, the reports could be available to the herd owner the same day the sample was taken. More likely, the reports will be mailed to the farmer the next morning.

At present the Lancaster association has 59,000 cows on test with an average of 47,000 samples per month. Mylin emphasized that they were getting quality service at Mid-East and before that at Pennsylvania. But this move became feasible because of the reduced time and effort needed to transport samples. The local association plans to continue the present working relationship with Mid-East for quality certification.

Testing the milk close-by reminds older dairymen of earlier times when each "tester" did his own lab work on the farm and had the information available for the owner the same day. With a close lab and modern transfer of information, the short turn-around time for information back to the dairymen can be now accomplished again.

## BVD Update: Get Serious On Biosecurity

**STATE COLLEGE** (Centre Co.) — On May 16, 1994, the Field Investigation Unit (FIU), part of the Animal Diagnostic Laboratory (ADL) at Penn State, was contacted by a county agent in northwestern Pennsylvania regarding possible multiple herd problems with a virulent disease, likely Bovine Virus Diarrhea (BVD).

The lab noted that a herd had been diagnosed with BVD in an adjoining county. The regional

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Marian Butler cares for one of her registered Holstein cows.

## Lancaster Tobacco Industry May Be Taxed Out Of Existence

**EVERETT NEWSWANGER**  
Managing Editor  
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The president of Lancaster Leaf Tobacco Company, Claude Martin, told a group of farmers and agri-business leaders that the proposed taxes in President Clinton's health care package would wipe out the tobacco industry in Lancaster County.

Speaking at the Ag Issues Forum Thursday morning, Martin said that based on industry statistics, the price increase that would be needed from the hidden tax proposals in the national health care plan would make the cigar and chewing tobacco industry "go away." And he predicted that much of the cigarette industry would move offshore.

Martin said the proposed taxes include increases of: 10,417% on chewing tobacco; 3,472% on snuff; 3,333% on cigars; 1,852% on pipe tobacco, and 313% on cigarettes. "If they continue to restrict and tax tobacco products to the extent they propose, farmers in Lancaster County will need to look for another source of revenue,"

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Farmers were busy planting tobacco this week, but an industry leader says taxes may force the local industry out of existence. This Lancaster County farm scene was recorded Monday afternoon on N. Shirk Road, northwest of New Holland. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.

## Thrips May Cause Berry Problem

**VERNON ACHENBACH JR.**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — An apparent heavy infestation of Eastern Flowers Thrips (EFT) has been discovered and identified throughout Lancaster County and may be evident in many other counties, though information is yet too insufficient to make any kind of accurate determination as to the extent the pest has spread.

According to Lancaster County Extension Horticulturalist Bruce Hellerick, he discovered the infestation after receiving a request to inspect some commercial strawberry fields that had malformed, dull and unthrifty fruit and somewhat damaged plants.

The producers had requested the help when they became stymied at the apparent lack of a cause for the damage.

That is a sign of the almost invisible thrips; a type of insect that requires a strong hand lens to detect, or a knowledge of what to look for with the naked eye.

In fact, those who are attempting to determine the cause and extent of damage said Thursday

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## Growers Should Control Peach Borer, Nematodes

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
NEW SMITHVILLE (Lehigh Co.) — Having survived a brutal winter that devastated the peach crop statewide, commercial growers face yet more potential adversaries: peach tree borers and nematodes.

But since little of the crop bore fruit for this season — like the saying goes, "if you're given a lemon, make lemonade" — growers can use the heart of the harvest season to effectively deal with the pest problems.

That was the message delivered (Turn to Page A20)