

# Lancaster Farming

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## Dairy Family Tree Stems From the Hessians



Four generations of the Laughlin family gather in the evening for photos. The Laughlins can trace their roots back to the Revolutionary War of 1775. Jim and son Joe dairy farm in Ferguson Valley near Lewistown, Mifflin County. Left to right is, seated, Mary Laughlin holding granddaughter Katie, Jim Laughlin with grandson Charlie, Glenn Laughlin seated in the center, Joe Laughlin, Elizabeth Laughlin, Beth and son David.

**GAIL STROCK**  
Mifflin Co. Correspondent  
**FERGUSON VALLEY** (Mifflin Co.) — It's been a long time since the Revolutionary War of 1775, the Boston Tea Party, Paul Revere's famous ride, and the not so famous hired Hessians, German soldiers hired by the British to fight the American colonists.

According to the encyclopedia, the Hessians were victims of a country which sold their men into military service. Many Hessians, who cared little about the Revolutionary War, joined the American

cause and stayed in the United States after the war.

That war is also a far cry from today's tractor-furrowed fields and mechanized milking machines. The Laughlin families of Ferguson Valley, Mifflin County, know a branch of their family tree stems from the Hessians, but fortunately farming lifestyles nowadays are so far removed from the bayonet and musket clad fighters. The three Laughlin families live a quiet life devoted to family dairy farming and community service.

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## Noss Is Vice Chairman of National Dairy Board

**VERNON ACHENBACH JR.**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
**PORT ROYAL** (Juniata Co.) — David Noss is a dairy farmer in partnership with his brother Larry in a 60-milking cow/cropping operation on more than 220 acres in Juniata County.

The farm is located near Honey Grove, along Rt. 75, which is a two-lane state road that cuts a path

close along the northern slope of the 75-mile long Tuscarora Mountain.

The Tuscarora Mountain is a long, narrow ribbon of a mountain that butts against the Mason-Dixon Line, and arches northeast in a half-moon toward the Susquehanna River.

It is one of several parallel-

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## Poultry Houses Need Proper Bracing To Endure Heavy Ice, Snow Loads

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
**MANHEIM** (Lancaster Co.) — Excessive snow and ice loads last winter created heavy damage to the roofs of poultry houses throughout the region. But it wasn't necessarily the snow or ice that made them weaken or collapse.

In a word, it was "bracing." More precisely, improperly designed and installed bracing in the roof trusses caused millions of dollars worth of damage to houses, according to ag engineering experts.

In one engineer's estimate, for

about 95 percent of the houses that were constructed with prefabricated wood trusses and that experienced winter load damage, the primary problem was lack of proper bracing and placement of bracing.

Galen "Bud" Collins, project manager for structural engineering at Rettew Associates, Inc., Lancaster, investigated the sites of 12 damaged hog facilities (with partial or full collapses) and one poultry house. He compared notes with another structural engineer.

What did they find?

"Every one of (the facilities)

had, number one, a lack of adequate bracing, and, number two, faulty installation of bracing," said Collins.

He said, "In most buildings — I would venture to say, almost all

buildings that collapsed this past winter — there was some inherent problem that caused the collapse, more than just snow."

Collins called the past winter, with record-breaking precipitation

and cold temperatures, the worst the state has had in "about a hundred years. We had a combination of snow and ice that produced some of the heaviest loads that

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## FFA Officers Elected At Activities Week

**STATE COLLEGE** (Centre Co.) — This year marked the 65th anniversary of FFA as more than 1,250 FFA members, advisers, and guests attended the Pennsylvania FFA Activities Week here this week.

At the convention, 11 new state officers were elected. They are Jenny Zerby, West Snyder High School, state president; Marci Hamish, Manheim, state vice president; Theresa Inhoff, Owen J. Roberts High School, eastern region vice president; Kelli Zeigler, Big Spring High School, south central region vice president; Laurie Wildman, Cowanesque Valley High School, north central region vice president; Jim McConnaughey, Derry High School, western region vice president;

Chad Slusser, Pequea Valley High School, treasurer; Heidi Dalhammer, Northern York High School, secretary; Traci Lobaugh, Biglerville High School, reporter; Tony Miller, Pequea Valley High School, sentinel; and Benjamin Dodd, Twin Valley High School, chaplain.

Tuesday evening included the annual Keystone Degree celebration, state officer parent recognition, and a special presentation by hypnotist Dr. Jim Wand. Wednesday included the featured speaker, Tyler Grandil, National FFA western region vice president. State officers were elected Thursday morning.

Other highlights included skill competition, public speaking, land judging, and related activities.



At the state FFA convention this week, 11 new state officers were elected. They are, front row, from left, Jim McConnaughey, Derry High School, western region vice president; Chad Slusser, Pequea Valley High School, treasurer; Tony Miller, Pequea Valley High School, sentinel; and Benjamin Dodd, Twin Valley High School, chaplain. Back row, from left, Heidi Dalhammer, Northern York High School, secretary; Traci Lobaugh, Biglerville High School, reporter; Kelli Zeigler, Big Spring High School, south central region vice president; Marci Hamish, Manheim, state vice president; Jenny Zerby, West Snyder High School, state president; Theresa Inhoff, Owen J. Roberts High School, eastern region vice president; and Laurie Wildman, Cowanesque Valley High School, north central region vice president.