

Lancaster Farming

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Commitment To No-Till Is Commitment To Management

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
CARLISLE (Cumberland Co.) — Preplanning, testing, scouting, researching, measuring, keeping records, consulting, and communicating are a few of the activities that get heavier emphasis when cropping fields with no-till

methods, according to the speakers at the 21st annual Mid-Atlantic Tillage Conference, held Wednesday at the Embers Inn and Convention Center, in Carlisle.

While field skills, a strong knowledge of equipment capabilities and a good sense for soil condition are important to successful-

ly raising crops in any situation, there is more risk associated with the lower-overhead, higher profit potential no-till approach, according to expert and layman speakers to the approximately 250 participants at the conference.

The only way to counter the increased risk of problems that

come with using no-till is to understand what those potential problems are for each crop, to have an intimate knowledge of the land being farmed, know the uses and the limits of the tools, and to have a detailed plan.

Every speaker at the conference, attended by crop producers from

Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia, and a few other states, said that while no-till farming improves the organic matter content of the soil, improves its permeability, nutrient stability and moisture retention and can result in

(Turn to Page A21)

Rodent Control Vital To Poultry Quality Assurance Programs

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Rodent control should top the list of priorities for poultry producers when implementing quality assurance programs in their business, according to two producers who spoke about their experiences

at the Farm and Home Center on Tuesday.

Dale Snader, Dutch Country Egg Farms, Fredericksburg and Scott Buckwalter, farm manager, Espenshade Farms, Mount Joy emphasized the importance of a strictly managed rodent control program in controlling pathogens

— particularly Salmonella enteritidis (SE) and campylobacter—on broiler and layer flocks.

The producers spoke to 130 industry representatives who attended the Food Safety Comes To The Farm meeting.

Dale Snader, who manages a million birds for Dutch Country

Egg Farms, said he has become a "converted believer" in the importance of rodent control.

"I once thought that a chicken house without mice is like a chicken without eggs," he admitted,

thinking that mice were just a natural problem that all poultry producers somehow simply put up with. But he soon realized that SE and mice "go hand in hand."

(Turn to Page A34)

Lancaster Chamber Ag Position Opens

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Jay Howes, the agricultural director of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, has been named to a vacancy in the Pennsylvania House Ag and Rural Affairs committee staff as a research analyst. Howes made the announcement at

the chamber's board meeting Wednesday morning.

"This opportunity arose to be involved as an advisor to help to develop legislation that is sympathetic to the needs of the farmers," Howes said. "A great deal of my work with the chamber has been centered around monitoring the development of legislation in

nutrient management and water use laws. Because I was a representative of the chamber, my voice in presenting the farmer's side of things was much more effective. It was this part of my job with the chamber I enjoyed the most, and now I have the opportunity to do this in the state legislature as the

(Turn to Page A25)

Christmas Deadlines

The Lancaster Farming office will be closed Monday, Dec. 26, to observe Christmas Day. Early deadlines for several departments will be needed the week of Christmas. These deadlines are as follows:

- Public Sale Ads — 5 p.m., Friday, 12/23.
- Mailbox Markets — 5 p.m., Friday, 12/23.

Other departments will have a normal schedule as follows:

- General News — Noon, Thursday, 12/29.
- Classified Section C Ads — 5 p.m., Wednesday, 12/28.
- All Other Classifieds — 9 a.m. Thursday, 12/29.



Three generations of the Brubaker family gather in the curtain sided, drive-through free-stall cow barn. The Brubakers milk 300 cows, and raise 250,000 broilers and 1,200 hogs on their Mount Joy farm. From left are son Tony, daughter Cindy with husband Marshall and children Lucas

and Zachary; Barb and Luke holding granddaughter Molly whose parents are son Mike and his wife Lisa, at right. Turn to page B2 for story and pictures of the Brubaker family. Photo by Lou Ann Good.