



# Lancaster Farming

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## Quality Seedlings, Shearing, Fresh Cut Trees Hallmarks Of Schuylkill Forest Farm



The Bacherts, who farm with Bruce, Sr., wife Jean, and sons Bruce, Jr., Joel, Jared, and Bret, maintain about 135 acres of Christmas trees. They grow mostly firs, including Douglas and Frazer. Also, they grow several varieties of spruce and also Scotch Pine. From left, Mike Oruskanich, Jean Bachert, and Nancy Killian at the homestead farm, which contains Scotch Pines.

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
**NEW RINGGOLD** (Schuylkill Co.) — In the rush to bring Christmas trees to market years ago, growers would simply cut down the trees and sell them as fast as possible.

Sometimes the trees were of poor quality, the needles would burn and fall off, and the trees — mostly Scotch Pine — desperately needed a prune job.

Those days were sent packing in this part of the country about 60 years ago when a man by the name of John Bachert began using the technique known as tree shearing. Beginning in mid-June and lasting until Thanksgiving, the trees were carefully cut and groomed to have

the conical appearance that consumers prefer.

John Bachert, starting with 35 acres, gradually purchased more land to grow Christmas trees, carefully expanding the business. Others grasped onto the concepts that made his steadily growing business so successful.

But he was the first to demonstrate the technique of shearing on Scotch Pine trees in the eastern part of Pennsylvania, according to Harvey Bachert. "He started a lot of these guys," said Harvey. "He was a farmer, he farmed corn and potatoes and whatever, and then he started planting trees. He taught a lot of guys about it, that there was money in it."

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### Christmas Deadlines

The *Lancaster Farming* office will be closed Monday, Dec. 26, to observe Christmas Day and reopen again at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27. Early deadlines for several departments have been issued for the Dec. 31 issue. These deadlines include:

- 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.

### New Year's Day Deadlines

The *Lancaster Farming* office will be closed Monday, Jan. 2, 1995, to observe New Year's Day and reopen again Tuesday, Jan. 3. Early deadlines will be needed for the Jan. 6, (Farm Show) issue. These deadlines are as follows:

- Public Sale Ads — 5 p.m., Friday, 12/30.
- Mailbox Markets — 5 p.m., Friday, 12/30.
- General News — Noon, Wednesday, 1/4.
- Classified Section C Ads — 5 p.m., Tuesday, 1/3.
- All Other Classifieds — 9 a.m., Wednesday, 1/4.



## Agribusiness Professionals, Farmers Gather To Discuss Future

**EVERETT NEWSWANGER**  
Managing Editor  
**LANCASTER** (Lancaster Co.) — A group of 60 agribusiness persons and a few farmers convened early Tuesday morning under the auspices of the Lancaster

County Extension Service and Glenn Shirk, dairy agent, and Alan Stroock, farm management agent. The goal: to explore the internal and external problems facing county agriculture in the immediate future.

Sitting in round-table discussions, each group forwarded specific ideas on what were problems facing agriculture. Some of the problems that surfaced include: agriculture's resistance to change;

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A star erected 140 feet above the Fred Heller farm in Lititz attracted hundreds to view a real-life reenactment of the birth of Jesus. Part of the cast includes, from left, Darin Zimmerman, Chad Burkholder, Matt Hurst, Duane Bollinger, Kevin Hurst, Marvin Martin, and Holly Hurst. Turn to page B14 to read more about the youth who transformed the rustic barn into the perfect Christmas story setting. Photo by Lou Ann Good.