

Spring Brings Blossoms At Derick's Orchards Since 1911

BETH MILLER

**Cumberland Co. Correspondent
NEWVILLE (Cumberland Co.)** — The cherry blossoms are blooming again at Derick's Orchards, continuing a tradition that dates to the early years of this century. The orchards are located in the north mountains behind Newville.

Those blooms were a welcome sight for Tom Derick, whose grandfather bought the property in 1911, when it consisted of just a few trees.

"The mild winter didn't seem to hurt the cherries or peaches or apples," Derick said.

Things were a lot worse last year following the terribly cold and snowy winter, he said.

"Last year we had three peaches, but this year it looks like we will have plenty of peaches," Derick said.

The Derick property has grown considerably from the little orchard Tom's grandfather bought. Today, Derick has nine acres of peaches, 1 acre of sweet cherry trees and 100 acres of apple trees, mostly York apples.

Derick said that, in contrast

with last year, the cherries in his orchard blossomed about one week earlier than normal. That means that the cherries the trees produce should be ready for picking in mid June to early July, he said.

The weather still can pose some risks for the crop, however.

"After May 10 we are over the hump. That is the last day we have to worry about frost," Derick said. "If we had frost or really cold temperatures it would really hurt the cherry and peach crops."

A lot of work went into getting the trees ready for a new producing season, said Derick, whose son, Robert, manages another orchard for the family's next-door neighbor.

"During the winter we prune religiously and we have to protect the trees from mice," he said. "And the white-tail deer have become a very big problem in the last several years."

"We have eight-foot fences that do a pretty good job, and we are also using the Penn State fence, which is a five-foot, five-wire electrified fence," he said.

Derick said most of the cherries



his trees produce are sold right at the orchard. The cherries and peaches are picked by local help, he said.

About 15 to 20 migrant workers come in every year to pick the apple crop. Derick said that crop

then goes to Lucky Leaf processing plants.

The useful life spans of the different fruit trees vary considerably, he said.

Many of the apple trees can live for 35 years or longer, Derick said, while peach trees generally live

from 12 to 15 years.

Cherry trees can get to be the oldest of the bunch, Derick said. For an example, he pointed to a cherry tree in his yard. That tree is approximately 60 years old, Derick said.

Pa. State Grange Holds Legislative Banquet

VERNON ACHENBACH, JR.

**Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)** — Almost 400 members of the Pennsylvania State Grange met with state representatives and senators Monday evening during the organization's annual event, held at the Sheraton Inn East-Harrisburg.

The Pennsylvania State Grange is an organization whose 33,000 members and their ideals represent a significant segment of the state's agricultural and rural community.

The annual event is held to bring members together with legislators who are normally in Harrisburg in April working on legislation and budget items.

Monday's Grange event began at 1 p.m. with a series of workshops offered to members before a 5 p.m. informal pre-banquet meeting with legislators and state government agency representatives.

During the banquet, Grange Master Gordon Hiller welcomed the members and guests. In his remarks, Hiller said that in a recent statewide spate of meetings with members of local affiliates, he heard many comment on the diminishing number of agricultur-

al producers in the state — that it currently is closer to 1 percent of the population.

"What we need to say," Hiller said, "is that the 1 percent is providing 16- to 17-percent of the of jobs for those who have jobs, and that 100 percent of the state depends on that 1 percent to provide food."

Hiller then introduced Charles Brosius, state secretary of agriculture, who read a proclamation by state Gov. Tom Ridge, extolling the virtues of the Grange as an organization, and declaring this week Grange Week. The week is also National Grange Week.

Brenda Shambaugh, legislative director for the Pa. State Grange, said the annual event is necessary to bring government closer to the community, and briefed attendees on pieces of legislation of concern to the Grange, and the Grange's grass-roots derived viewpoints on desirable governmental policies.

Specifically, the Grange has promoted local tax reform (Senate Bill 2); legislation to widen options for farm truck plates (House Bill 511); proposals to change charges on storage tanks from capacity to use (HB 825, HB

635); a package of industrial site revitalization proposals (SB 1, SB 11, SB 12); private property rights; dedicated funding for the department of agriculture, and agricultural research at Penn State University and the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center; a proposal to allow Pennsylvania farmer markets along the Pennsylvania Turnpike at suitable locations (HB 844); a proposal to make media liable for recklessly publishing unfounded, unsupported food scare reports (HB 949); a proposal to create uniform standards for determining the tax-exempt status for organizations (SB 355); a proposal to support the state's animal indemnification program (HB 600); and a proposal to provide voluntary approved agriculture education in schools (HB 20, HB 251).

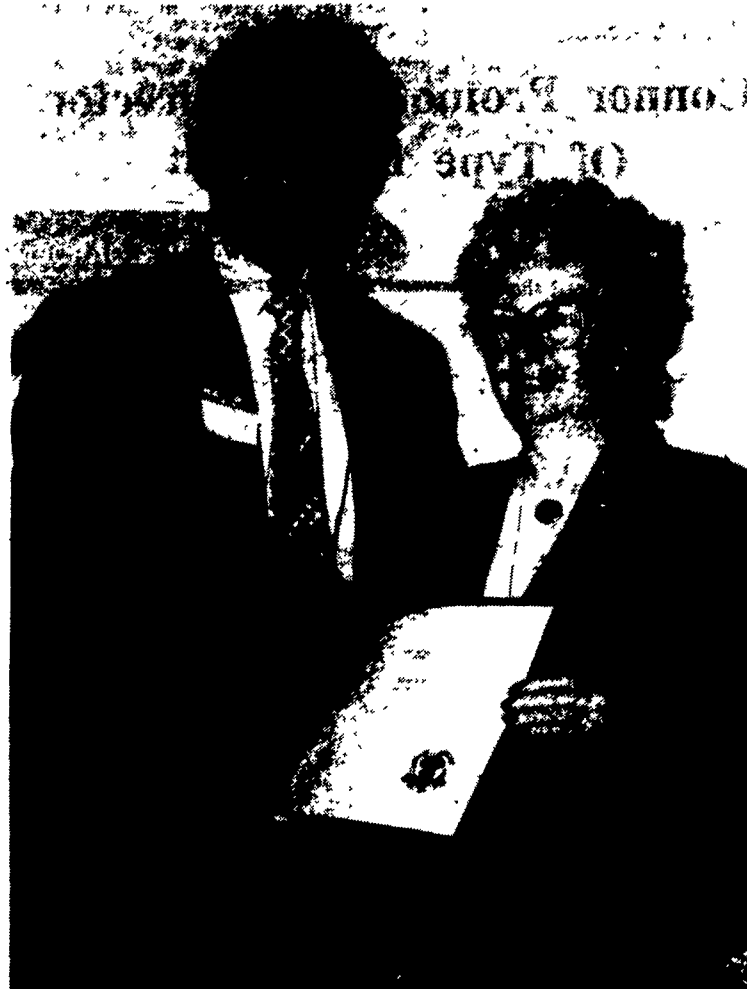
The Grange is strongly opposed the a proposed school voucher system, Shambaugh said, adding that the Grange has had policies against vouchers. Instead, the organization calls for using any and all public funding to support the funding of public schools.

In other business, the Pa. State Grange recognized Mary Jo Wojton, past director of the organization's Deaf Activities Department, and Hedy Chaffee, past state lecturer.

Wojton was recognized with an appreciation award from Bill Steel, Grange vice president, for being one the top five nationally recognized deaf activities directors. She was recognized nationally for the programs, projects and community service efforts to raise awareness of the deaf and hard of hearing.

Chaffee was unable to accept her award in person, but was honored for receiving an Award of Merit from the National Grange for her work in planning statewide programs, projects, contests and community service initiatives.

For more information on the Grange, or any of its member-service programs, call (800) 292-4060.



From the left, Bill Steel, Pa. State Grange vice president presents a certificate of appreciation to Mary Jo Wojton, past director of the organization's Deaf Activities Department, in recognition of her work to further awareness of the deaf and hearing impaired.



From the left, State Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius presents a proclamation of state Grange Week to Gordon Hiller, master of the Pa. State Grange.

Ewe Lamb Takes Grand Champion

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Dinsmore 9438 TW took grand champion honors at the National Market Mamma Show and Sale held recently in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Expo.

The February ewe lamb was consigned by Robert Dinsmore of Jefferson, Md. and sired by his Cabaniss ram, "Limo," the 1993 national champion Hampshire wether sire. She was purchased by the McGuire family of Iowa. Prior

to this sale, she had won the National Junior Hampshire Show's slick-shorn class.

