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Nature Gives And Nature Takes Away

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MERCERSBURG (Franklin Co.)—Mother Nature has played the cruelest trick on some farmers in the Mercersburg area this

summer.

She spent weeks nurturing their fruit trees and grain to bumper crop levels, only to snatch everything away in a spate of recent storms.

The thunder and hail storms have left some local dairy farmers

wondering how they'll feed their cows next winter. The corn stalks broke off about two feet above the ground—too low to save the ear.

Many area fruit growers are scrambling to land cannery contracts for their damaged peaches and apples—fruit that would've

commanded top price in their retail markets before the storms hit.

Franklin County CFSA executive director Thomas Kerr said there is not rhyme or reason to the destruction. Fields that have been wiped nearly bare of corn stand next to fields where the crop was not even touched. Orchards scarred by hail that riddled the skin of peaches and apples lay just down the road from orchards where the fruit remains perfect specimens.

Donald Stuff, a local agronomist said two weeks after the last big

storm, grain farmers are still finding large areas of down corn that can't be seen from roadways.

"In 35 years, I've never seen a storm do this kind of damage," Stuff said.

When Bob and Kathy Hartung went to bed on July 15, their corn stood tall in the fields surrounding Rohart Farms.

"It looked like a 150-bushel crop—and a chance to get out of the hole finally after the drought two years ago," Kathy Hartung said.

Shortly after midnight, the cou-

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Senior and grand champion at the York Holstein show was the senior three-year-old exhibited by the Dale Doll family. Reserve champion honors went to Joshua Hushon's four-year-old. Gathered with the champion are, from left, judge James Burdette, Patty Hushon, Dana Doll, Angela Mummert, York County dairy princess, and Tom Boyer, trophy sponsor.

Doll Family Sweeps York Holstein Show

JOYCE BUYP

York Co. Correspondent

YORK (York Co.) — On her first-ever trip around the showing, Dar-Dale Vanguard Val topped the senior three-year-old class at the York County Holstein Show, then bested that win by taking senior and grand champion honors.

The Relay Arise SWD Vanguard-ET daughter was also named best bred and owned of the annual York Holstein competition.

Held at the York Fairgrounds, the show was officiated by Franklin County Holstein breeder James Burdette.

Following a first-lactation finish with 20,000 milk, Val freshened in March and scored VG-86 during May classification. Her sweep of the show, along with several other high-placing entries, combined to earn both the premier breeder and exhibitor banners for the Dale and Darla Doll family.

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Manor Farmers Meet To Assess Reassessment

EVERETT NEWSWANGER

Managing Editor

MOUNTVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — A cloud burst of rain torrents pounded loud noise on the tin roof of the large bank barn on the farm of Robert Noll Monday evening. Inside, on the double barn floor, semi-circles of freshly baled straw provided an arena around a speaker's stand and microphone. Cob webs and old bale ropes, hanging from the rafters glistened in the light rays projecting downward from the hastily erected flood lights hung from the purline.

"The steers down in the lower stables will make some rumbling noises, but bear with it," Phil Shertzer, master of ceremonies, said. "This is a farm, and this is a barn."

The 100 Manor area farmers had gathered to discuss local real estate taxes and the disquieting results from the county reassessment program that is just now being reported. Back in June, 12 to 15 local farmers had met in Shertzer's farm shop with the county commissioners to discuss the high assessments and why these farmers thought they were out of line. As a

result of the earlier meeting, the farmers had been promised that discrepancies in the Manor district would be reviewed. And from that

meeting additional local, county, and state elected officials were invited to meet with this larger group of farmers that assembled as

the rain noises became quiet.

"We came to the conclusion that the whole tax scene points to the

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PDA Announces Animal Import Restrictions

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—Agriculture Secretary Charles C. Brosius on Thursday announced a quarantine, effective immediately, on hoofed animals entering Pennsylvania from states where vesicular stomatitis has been diagnosed during 1995.

Vesicular stomatitis is a viral disease that causes blister-like lesions around the mouth, nostrils and feet of the animals that result

in painful ulcers. Humans exposed to the virus may experience flu-like symptoms but rarely suffer serious disease.

"Other states are experiencing problems with vesicular stomatitis this year," Brosius said. "We want to prevent the disease from affecting livestock production in Pennsylvania."

The quarantine prohibits

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After three days of competing at State 4-H Achievement Days, these 4-H'ers took first-place awards. Kneeling in front, from left, are Jimmy Mullen and Chris Reeder. Second row, from left, is Kandy Mullen, Gerald Boyd, and Ken Cramer. Back row, from left, Lisa Reiff, Regina Landis, Derek Stoner, Dale Livingood, and Mike Hartman. Turn to page A23 for the story and photos by Lou Ann Good.

Dairy Of Distinction Farms

The annual special section of the Dairy of Distinction farm winners is part of this issue. Look for the farm photos, features, a proclamation from Governor Tom Ridge, and messages from advertisers.