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Lancaster Farming

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Pa. State Grange Holds Annual Convention

VERNON ACHENBACH, JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
WEST MIDDLESEX (Mercer Co.) — The Pennsylvania State Grange held its annual convention recently at the Raddison in West Middlesex and adopted some policies on a number of issues to forward during the National Grange Convention, under way in Harrisburg.

The Pennsylvania State Grange has 33,000 members in 66 counties and is a rural and agricultural organization dedicated to making the state a better place to live through legislative action, community ser-

vice and member services. One of the oldest agricultural and rural organizations in the United States, it develops policy locally, further refining it at the state level, and also at the national level.

In addition to policy development, the Pa. State Grange also honors outstanding achievements by members, and holds contests, such as talent and sign-language.

State Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius addressed the convention and called upon the Grange to pass resolutions that will guide the administration toward

policies that will make agriculture a more profitable and viable industry.

Brosius said that the Grange's 123 years of service to agriculture and rural communities is commendable and asked that the Grange keep providing "the power that comes from speaking as one voice."

The agriculture secretary said, "We need your input. We need to know what the Grange thinks. We appreciate your resolutions and the time you've put into them to make agriculture an even greater

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Lancaster Farmland Trust honors land benefactors, from left, Dr. Floyd and Ruth Landis, Ethel Stephan, and Ethel Van Natta.

Farmland Trust Honors Land Benefactors, Boyd

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
WILLOW STREET (Lancaster Co.) — "Remember, land is not inherited from our parents but borrowed from our children," Darwin E. Boyd, outgoing president for Lancaster Farmland Trust, told the 400 supporters attending the annual dinner meeting on Nov. 3. "There is no more noble cause than to enhance the life of future generations," he said.

It was for this reason that three more families donated a perpetual conservation easement to Lancaster Farmland Trust. The donation of an easement prevents development while the farm continues to stay in private ownership.

Although Dr. Floyd and Ruth Landis no longer live on the 78-acre Upper Leacock farm, they wanted to make sure that it remained a working farm.

"It's too good of land to do anything else with it," Landis said of the farm that his father Aaron had purchased in 1912.

"He worked hard to save the farm through the Depression. Now, I'm doing this to honor him," Landis said of the family's decision to preserve the farmland.

Ethel Van Natta and her brother Ai Rorabaugh Jr. also decided to preserve the family farm in honor of their father.

"It was my father's wish," Van

Natta said of the 53-acre Providence Township farm, which has been in the family since 1910.

Ethel Stephan also donated the easement on her Lititz farm. "It was my husband's dream place," Stephen said of the farm that she describes as a 17-acre horse farm with a "million dollar view."

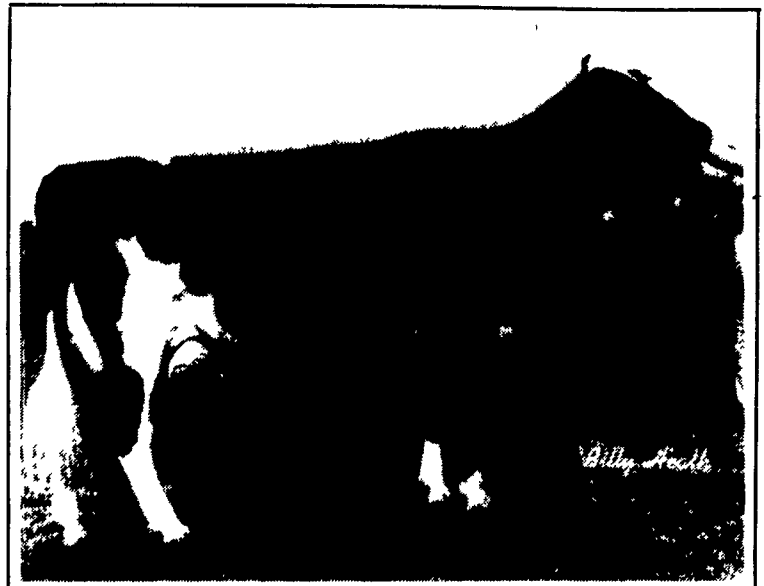
Benefactor awards also went to Frances Bear, Joseph and Malinda Fisher, Bob and Carolyn Kilgour, Brooke Minnich, Richard Min-

nich, and Mary Schantz, for donating easements.

These farms are a legacy of what Boyd described as "a living national treasure flourishing to the ongoing quality of life rather than a historical monument."

The trust's executive director Alan Musselman said that the trust has preserved 60 farms totaling 4,000 acres since the trust's inception seven years ago.

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This is the All-Maryland Holstein that has produced 100,000 pounds of milk, Hanoverhill Columbus Echo, owned by Paul F. Harrison III of Burkittsville, Md. To see all the 1995 All-Maryland Holstein winners, see page A 21.



Betty Master accepts a bouquet of flowers and a plaque as the recipient of the annual Pa. State Grange Granger of the Year award.

Farmers' Export/Import Group Writes Russian Partnership

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

RONKS (Lancaster Co.) — The Russians came to Lancaster County last week with visits to the farms of Jack Coleman, Ronks, Ed Hamish, Christina, and Charles Tindall, Peach Bottom. And the Russians went home this week with a partnership agreement between them and a group of farmers known as the Pennsylvania Producers Research and Development Commission, Inc. The commission, a fledgling trade association with the purpose to export and import farm and other products, has 500 members in Southeast Pennsylvania, many of them Amish.

After John Best, Holtwood,

commission treasurer, and Allen Weickael, commission director, visited St. Petersburg, last month, the Russian businessman, George Komissarov and Yuri Ivanov, St. Petersburg's chief TV cameraman, along with Irene Souchkava, interpreter and employee of the commission, made a return visit at the commission's expense to check out the products and services that are available in Southeast Pennsylvania.

As a result of these visits from halfway around the world, an official partnership agreement was signed as the first step in the distribution chain the commission hopes to develop so that nutritional products can find their way from here

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Department Of Ag Hears Cries Of Help From Family Farms

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
GUTHRIESVILLE (Chester Co.) — More than 150 Chester County Cooperative Extension representatives and friends gathered on Thursday evening for the annual meeting and banquet at the Guthriesville Fire Hall.

What they learned is that, in these extremely trying times for

farm families, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is hearing their cries for help — and admitting there is a lot of work to be done.

Often, according to Charles C. Brosius, Pennsylvania secretary of agriculture, the department receives a letter from a farm family that is seeking economic help.

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