

# Lancaster Farming

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## Researchers Work To Better Determine Contributors Of Nutrients

**VERNON ACHENBACH JR.**  
Lancaster Farming Staff

**HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)**—The future of nutrient management in Pennsylvania appears that it will actually be a statewide, all-activities management plan and not just a focus on agriculture and already regulated industry.

The state developed the nation's first mandatory nutrient management planning laws in an effort to stem the uncontrolled flow of

nutrients into the state's surface and groundwaters.

While regulations were already in place to deal with specifically known sources (point sources) of nutrients — such as wastewater treatment plants — there was undeniable evidence that other sources of nutrients were contaminating groundwater and threatening public health.

These other sources could not be pin-pointed, though some activities such as agriculture and mal-

functioning residential on-lot septic systems were suspect. These sources have been categorized as "non-point" sources.

### Necessary Work

This work into determining nutrient sources is necessary for many reasons.

The nutrient of main concern in the Nutrient Management Act is nitrogen. While nitrogen is an

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## Starling Named Interim Dean Of Penn State Agricultural Sciences

**UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.)**—Dr. James L. Starling, senior associate dean and professor of agronomy in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, has been named interim dean of the college, effective Jan. 1.

Starling succeeds Dr. Lamar-tine F. Hood, who announced last July that he would step down from the post, which he has held since March 1986.

Starling has been responsible for fiscal and personnel matters, strategic planning and physical facility development for the college. He was named associate dean for administration in 1985 and senior associate dean in 1993.

His tenure as senior associate dean has been marked by many improvements in college facilities, including extensive renovations to the Armsby, Buckhout and Tyson



**Dr. James L. Starling**

buildings, new poultry, dairy and greenhouse facilities, the construction of the Agricultural Sci-

ences and Industries Building, and the expansion of the college's land holdings.

Starling has provided administrative direction to the college's farm operations and auxiliary enterprises such as the Dairy Herd Improvement Association and the Agricultural Analytical Services Laboratory. He also has coordinated academic unit reviews.

Starling was head of Penn State's Department of Agronomy from 1969 to 1985.

Prior to his appointment as department head, Starling was a research project leader in forage crop breeding and genetics. His primary responsibility was with perennial grass breeding and genetics. He also taught at the graduate level, drawing students from throughout the university to his

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## Public Hearings On Regulations Coming

**EVERETT NEWSWANGER**  
Managing Editor

**LEOLA (Lancaster Co.)**—With the hearings for public input on the new Pennsylvania nutrient management regulations fast approach-

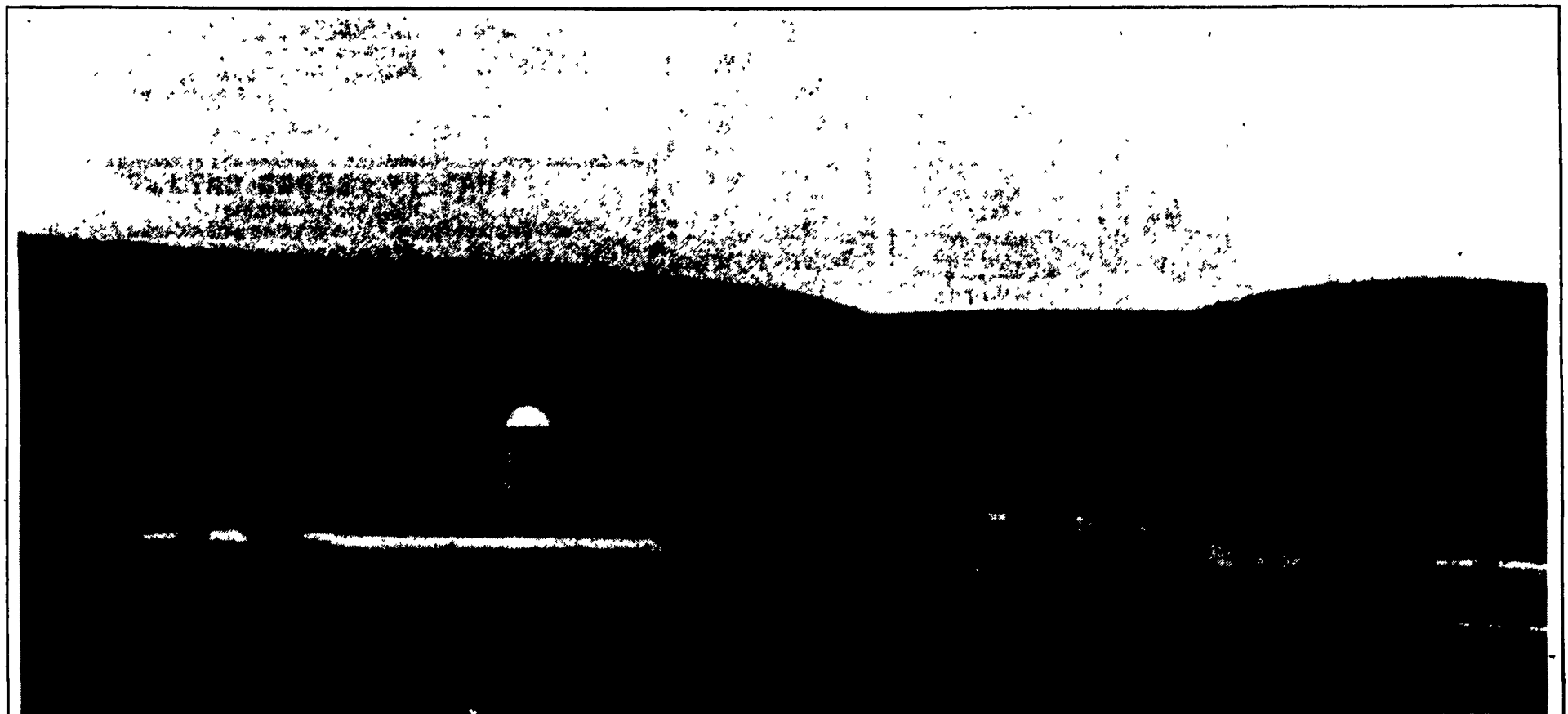
ing, Lynn Langer, chief of the nutrient management program, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), outlined basic facts about the program at the regular

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## Advertising/News Deadlines For Holiday, Farm Show Issues

The Christmas and New Year holidays and the annual Farm Show issue are fast approaching. This means many of the advertising and news deadlines for *Lancaster Farming* will need to be early to accommodate the publication of the

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Fifty years ago, Clara and Ralph Rimmey came to farm these 100 acres along Route 322 east of State College known as Tussey Ridge. Today their

son and daughter-in-law, Doug and Belinda, and grandchildren Nathan, 17, and Brandl, 13, carry the family's love of farming into the future.

## MUN Test Provides Basis For Dramatic Milk Production Increase

**EVERETT NEWSWANGER**  
Managing Editor

**TUSSEYVILLE (Centre County)**—Doug Rimmey thought he was getting about maximum production from his 70 Holstein cows. But last Tuesday, sitting around the farm shop table eating fried eggs and potatoes in the farm equipment and repair shed with his dad Ralph, Doug explained how the use of the new Milk Urea Nitrogen (MUN) test, offered by Pennsylvania DHIA, increased milk production by three pounds per day per cow in less than two weeks.

"As tight as it is in the dairy business, I thought that with a herd our size, it would not take too much to recov-

er the price of the MUN test," Doug said. "I didn't think it would be wise for us not to try it. We were getting out of our cows about all we could, but by just adding a pound of protein per cow per day — my, what a difference."

Ralph and Clara Rimmey rented the 100 acre Tussey Ridge homestead that borders Route 322, east of State College in 1956 after Ralph got out of the U.S. Navy. They started with one month's rent paid in advance and \$150 in pocket. In addition to their shoe-string start, Ralph claims he didn't even know how to run the milking machine.

"You can't start out small today and make it," the

elder Rimmey said. "It's a shame."

In 1959 the farm owner gave the Rimmey nine months to round up the money to buy the farm, which they did. And since that time, they have been making a living at farming and building equity in their farm.

About 17 years ago, father and son went into partnership. Doug took over the cows, and Ralph manages the fields. In addition to the home farm, they rent 130 acres. But the highway that puts development pressure on the farm also makes it rough to get to productive land away from the farm.

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