

# Pennsylvania Export Commission Meeting Held

QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — The Pennsylvania Producers Research and Development Commission, a fledgling group of 566 farmers and agribusiness people in Southeast Pennsylvania, held its annual meeting Monday night at the Hoffman Building at the Fairgrounds. The commission was formed last year to provide an avenue of foreign export trade for local agriculture products and to import products to be placed in distribution channels in the U.S.

The prospect of large returns on

a small investment and the opportunity to alleviate some of the economic encumbrances placed on farmers in the current marketing systems, brought an avalanche of prospective shareholders rushing to beat the deadline last November for buying \$100 stock. Since that time, the Commission has started to open up some trade lanes with the former Soviet Union, and officials reported the shipment of cream cheese and corn oil as the first sales made by the Commission. In the next two weeks,

canned corn will be added to the list of shipments scheduled to be exported.

President Lloyd Welk reported that the Commission has participated in both the Pennsylvania Trade Meeting as part of the State Farm Show in January and the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce's trade meeting in February. Welk also reported that State money is available to reimburse the Commission for 50 percent of expenditures spent to research and develop foreign markets.

Officials also announced that a new stock offering is now being made for 50 more shareholders to join the Commission at \$1,000 per share.

While the meeting was reported as "positive," Commission Secretary Bob Wenger said it should be emphasized that these things take time—maybe more time than

some of those who joined the original group anticipated. Wenger said that until you research the source of products and go through the hoops of export channels where the work ethic may be different than here at home, the whole process takes time.

About 200 shareholders attended the meeting.

## District Honors Conservationists

ANDY ANDREWS  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
DAUPHIN (Dauphin Co.) — Conservationists were honored for their service to the Dauphin County Conservation District here on Tuesday evening at the Ag and Natural Resources Center.

Ben Cooper, who has taught 5th grade at South Hanover Elementary school for 16 years, was honored with the Outstanding Conservation Educator Award. Cooper now teaches 6th grade math and science at Lower Dauphin Middle School.

During his career, Cooper has always made environmental education an integral part of his curriculum. His teachings model principle goals of environmental education. Under his leadership, 5th grade student projects have included fund raisers in support of environmental projects and forestland, recycling programs, wildlife habitat improvement, Earth Day activities, and the development of a nature trail used by the entire school.

Mark Dietrich, in recognition of his educational achievements

within the Upper Dauphin High School, was honored with the Outstanding Environmental Educator of the Year Award. The work done at the school with the natural resources program, according to the district, serves as a model to other school districts.

The Special Recognition Award for Conservation Awareness is the Milton S. Hershey Middle School of the Derry Township School District. In May this year, 6th grade students, teachers, and parent volunteers will participate in a three-day outdoor education experience at Camp Kenbrook. Since its inception in 1989, Derry Township's Environmental Education Retreat (D.E.E.R., for short) has involved more than 1,500 students. The interdisciplinary educational experience, which includes wildlife and stream studies and projects, astronomy, insects, orienteering, recycling, teamwork activities, and more, promotes conservation awareness.

Larry Shade, profiled in this issue of Lancaster Farming, a dairyman from Elizabethtown, won Conservation Farmer of the Year.

## Streambank Work

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accumulated began thawing. The ground was frozen and then, over a space of a few days, thawed out. Water from melting snow crested over the creek that runs through the hollow of the Shade Farm — the same creek leads about a quarter of a mile to the Black Creek, a tributary of the Susquehanna River where it joins at Millersburg.

The "river" that went through the hollow measured nearly 50 feet wide and acted like a plow to dislodge soil that broke away from the sod after the sudden thawing.

Fortunately, grass that lined the creek worked to contain the soil.

The stream bank fencing work was the key to containing the silt.

"When you have a 40-50 foot broad river running down over the field, it's bound to pull grass out," said Shade. "It doesn't matter what cover crops you have, it's going to take some of them out."

Fortunately, the gutters weren't washed away and the contours held. Some of the ground underneath the waterways was taken out.

For the creek, there was exposed soil on some of the banks.

The flooding reminded Larry of the Tropical Storm Agnes flooding of June 1972. But then, newly cut

hay acted as a soil barrier. In 1972, the floods came at the beginning of the "green" season, so much of the water was absorbed and utilized by the spring growth.

The ground then was "stabilized," said Shade. "When the ground is stabilized, it isn't going to wash near as quick as it does when it thaws out real fast in the spring."

Shade said he was "really surprised" by receiving the Conservation Farmer of the Year honor. "I didn't think I did any better than the neighbors. I didn't go out after it, let's put it that way."

Shade indicated that he always "kind of shied away" from honors such as Conservation Farmer of the Year. With a laugh, he indicated that, as a result, "neighbors are going to watch you like a hawk, and if you mess up . . ."

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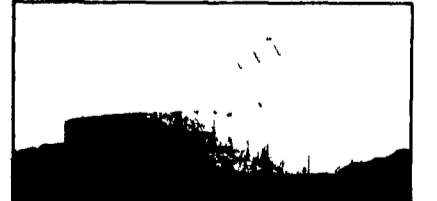
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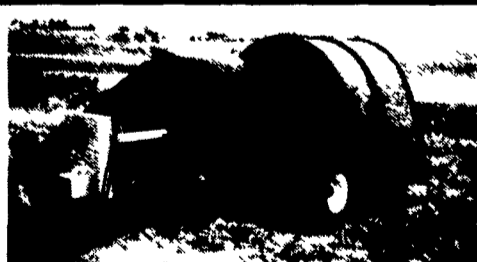
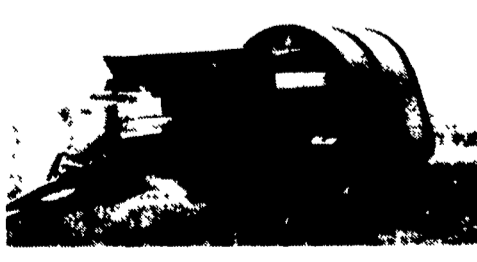
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