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Lancaster Farming

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State Grange Leads Fight Against Rural Phone Rate Increase

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania State Grange has been leading a battle against a proposal by a major telephone service provider that is seeking to increase the rates to rural customers in order to lower its urban and city rates.

During a public hearing on telecommunications deregulations held Thursday by the state Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee, Brenda Shambaugh, legislative director for the Pennsylvania State Grange testified against a proposal by Bell Atlantic to "rebalance" its

rates.

In January this year, Bell Atlantic proposed to the state Public Utility Commission that it be allowed to restructure and rebalance its rates with the observation that "The total effect of this rate rebalancing will be revenue neut-

ral to Bell Atlantic and Pennsylvania." The effective date of the filing was to be March 17.

The reason for the proposal is increased competition in all the markets — in effect, Bell is being challenged by small companies for city customers. Bell has an esti-

mated 4.2 million customers in the state. According to 1990 census data, Pennsylvania has about 11,881,643 residents.

Most Pennsylvanians live near Philadelphia or Pittsburgh, with the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre region also higher in density.

The state PUC is described in the most recent issue of the Pennsylvania Manual as "... an independent, quasi-judicial agency created by the Legislature in 1937 to establish and maintain reasonable rates and safe, adequate service in the regulation of the state's public utilities."

It has a 1995-96 budget of \$37,439,000, and covers a range of

public utilities and services, from railroads, truck, taxi and bus operators, natural gas pipelines, water and telephone lines, etc. Its funding comes from an assessment on rates, which in effect are user fees, because utilities pass on their costs to customers.

The gist of the proposal is that Bell suggests that it is seeking a shifting of its rate charges that will not increase the total income Bell derives from offering phone service, nor will it increase the total amount Pennsylvanians pay them as a whole.

Instead, it seeks to raise rates for customers in already economically

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PDA's Pesticide Container Recycling Dates, Places Given

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will again be conducting plastic pesticide container recycling this year in many areas of the commonwealth. The recycling program, which is avail-

able to all pesticide users, is entering the third year for collection of clean, plastic containers.

The initial year (1994) included 3 counties, Adams, Franklin and Lancaster and yielded over 7,500

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Poultry Producers Put Aside Troubles For Night Of Country



ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — "It's time to set aside your troubles for an evening of enjoyment," John Hoffman, executive director of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation, told 1,400 people on Wednesday evening at the Federation's annual fund raising banquet.

Producers and agri-industry representatives from all over Pennsylvania and states including Tennessee, Arizona, and others enjoyed an evening discussing some of the pleasures and challenges of the

\$600 million per year state poultry business.

Also, after a meal of turkey breast and a dessert featuring the "Hershey Snowball," guests listened to the country sounds of music star Ricky Skaggs.

William Trace, chairman of the Federation, reminded the poultry producers and industry representatives of the importance of the annual fund-raising event, in light of January's "terrible Farm Show" and the plummeting business at the Federation's Food

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Penn State Poultry Club Holds Banquet, Presents Awards

JUDY PATTON
Union Co. Correspondent
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Professional opportunities in agriculture are greater now than ever before, Al Wenger told the Penn State Poultry Science Club at its sixth annual banquet on April 19.

Head of Wenger Feeds in Rheems, Wenger emphasized the dire need for college graduates

who have specialized skills in such areas as market management, computer programming, public relations, human resources, and foreign languages. He also advised students to "make yourself increasingly valuable throughout your career" by constantly expanding knowledge and experience in areas where people are in demand.

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Many World Champions Get Start At Win Blu Stables

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor
WAKEFIELD (Lancaster Co.) — For Vicki Greer and her husband Charles, this story started in 1982 when the son of a world champion, WindHoverEnchantment (Mint), became available as a yearling. Well, at least the horse-breeding part of the story started then.

Vicki started riding, driving, and training horses as a youth. The gelding that was her first horse when she was a teenager is now nearly 30 years old and still graces the Win Blu Stables' 30-acre farm pastures. Charles was a quarter

horse man. But gradually the Greens fell in love with the Morgans.

"I like to ride a horse that has a lot of strength but still has the calm personality that allows for family use," Vicki said. "The Morgan breed, which started 200 years ago in the US with a mutant that looked neither like his father nor mother, gives you that all-round horse."

Versatility is one of the major characteristics of the Morgan breed as the offspring of Mint has proven. But that's ahead of the story.

When Mint was a yearling, Vic-

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Vicki Greer has a pasture full of Mint yearlings that want a little attention.