



# Longhorn Cattle For Love Of History, Minimal Care

**EVERETT NEWSWANGER**  
Managing Editor  
ASPERS (Adams Co.) — Christopher Columbus gets a lot of credit for America's oldest cattle breed—Texas Longhorn. These Spanish "long-horns" came along to the New World on the explorer's second trip in 1494.

From this beginning, 500 years of descendants can be traced. They pulled thousands of wagons over the Oregon Trail, set the stage for the creation of the legendary American cowboy, fed the armies in the Civil War, and today can claim a prominent role in producing lean, nutritious food.

"If you like history and cattle, you'll like Texas Longhorns," said Tim Cline at his 40-acre Point of View Farm, located northwest of Bendersville. "That's why my wife Mary Sue and I started our herd in 1990. We didn't just want to mow the ground. We have a real interest in conservation, and after looking at several breeds decided that with Texas Longhorns we could combine all of our interests into a profitable operation."

While there are some large herds scattered across the nation, these cattle fit well into farms with a few acres and primitive facilities. At

Point of View, the herd gets pasture in summer with supplemental hay over hot dry periods until the pastures can recover. In winter, the weanlings, bulls, and fattening animals get a protein supplement with their hay. But the mother cows get only hay. They have a shelter for the coldest weather but spend the winter outside.

This hardy constitution comes from the Longhorn's wild west genetics. In earlier times, these cattle roamed the prairies in all kinds of harsh weather and were driven 3,000 miles to the railroad heads to be shipped East to market.

The cows have their calves with ease. Of the 95 calves born on his farm, Cline has seen only two births. "The calves come unassisted and unnoticed until we get home and say 'Oh, we have a new calf today,'" Cline said. "When I sell a bull to a Holstein breeder to use on his heifers, I guarantee that I will pay the vet bill if my Longhorn bull breeds his heifer and she has calving problems. I have never been called to pay."

Longhorn cattle fed the nation, including the armies of the Civil

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Tim Cline, Point of View Farm, shows Pigglin String, one of his Registered Texas Longhorn cows. The breed is a true American heritage imported by Columbus in 1494.

## PDA Offers Seed Potato Testing For Late Blight

**HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)** — Agriculture Secretary Charles C. Brosius is offering the services of the department's plant disease diagnostic laboratory to help potato growers combat the fungal dis-

ease late blight. "One of the primary couriers of late blight fungus is infected seed potatoes," Brosius said. "We're offering this new service to help potato farmers prevent economic

losses." Late blight fungus (*Phytophthora infestans*) affects tomatoes and potatoes. Brownish to purplish-black spots appear on leaves or stems of plants. The disease can occur at any time during the growing season when humid, rainy conditions occur.

Seed potato testing is being offered to commercial potato growers and home gardeners free of charge on a first come, first served

basis. Protocols for sampling and submission to the department's plant disease diagnostic laboratory in Harrisburg are available through the department's regional offices, county extension offices, and the laboratory (717-787-5609).

In addition to the seed potato testing service, other departmental activities to control late blight include:

- Environmental monitoring and field scouting.

- Seeking approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to apply several new fungicides on potato and tomato plants.

- Laboratory testing of infected plants and seed for disease confirmation and genotyping.

- Regular dissemination of information via newsletters and the statewide integrated pest management (IPM) hotline (1-800-PENN-IPM)



At the conference, the new Lancaster County officer team was announced. They are, front to back, Justine Hill, vice president, Solanco; Sara Strickler, secretary, Solanco; Keith Bollinger, president, Cloister FFA; Ken Martin, treasurer, Grassland; and Dale Zimmerman, reporter, Cloister. Not available for photo was Walter Langley, Manheim, chaplain.

## Lancaster FFA'ers 'Go The Distance' At Leadership Conference

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff

**LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)** — State FFA Reporter Josh Troxell often finds himself between a rock and a hard place.

As state reporter, he is charged with documenting and distributing news of county and state FFA events. As an officer, he is responsible for coordinating meetings and performing numerous other duties as an officer.

In short, he not only reports the news, he participates in it.

And every time he wears the blue corduroy jacket, a staunch symbol of FFA membership, he said he has "new experiences" that help him develop as a professional.

Both reporting the news and participating in it formed the core

of the experiences of all the county officers, old and new, on Wednesday evening at the annual Red Rose Leadership Conference at Lancaster Mennonite High School.

"Go the Distance" was the theme of the conference, a training institute for professional leadership for all Lancaster County officers.

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Also serving as a special guest with some of the night's activities was Shannon Horst, Grassland

FFA, state chaplain. Nearly 100 FFAers were in attendance.

Troxell, Grassland FFA member who is pursuing a career in ag education with a minor in journalism at Delaware Valley College, participated in a workshop with Lisa Witmer, Manheim FFA, and Justine Hill, Solanco, about the duties of chapter officers as historians and reporters.

At the workshop, members reviewed some of the work involved in news gathering, including the importance of story timeliness and how to submit articles for publication.

Also, the workshop reviewed how to put together a chapter newsletter.

Troxell is editor of the newsletter of the state FFA, The FFA I.C.E. (acronym for Involvement, (Turn to Page A26)