

Life

Lancaster Farming

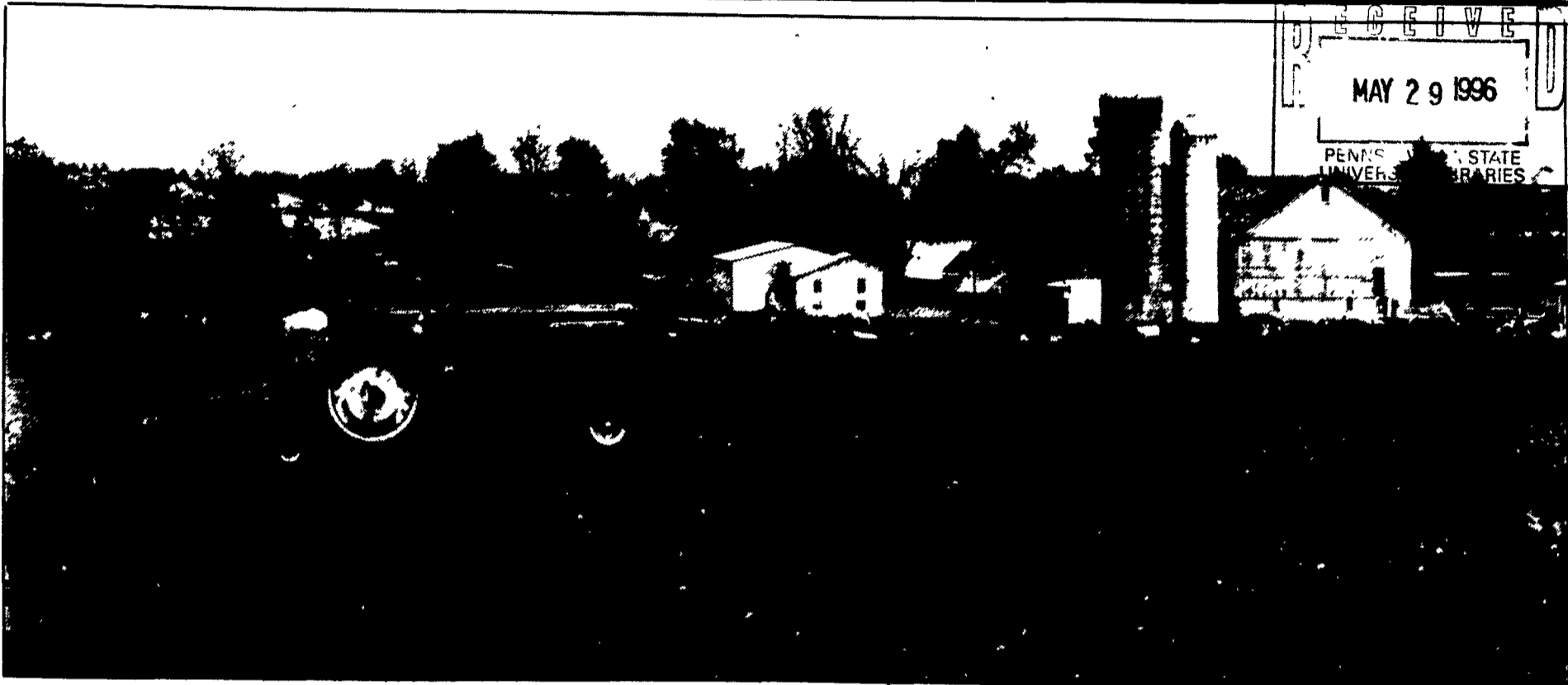
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Farmers were "chomping at the bit" to get into fields to work the ground, plant corn, and harvest grass, as the weather cleared early in the week. But in many fields, the tractor tracks were so deep that tillers and planters left the tread marks showing. Before the next rain hit Wednesday night, a few hours had been spent in planting. Others were trying to harvest rye and other grasses. Much of the crop was still too high in moisture to make really good haylage, but the alternative was to let more rain fall on it Wednesday night and Thursday.

The Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service reported that farmers had only half the number of days suitable for fieldwork this year compared to 1995. Corn planting progress was slow. Some earlier planted corn has emerged and is yellow due to cool and wet conditions.

Frost Tuesday morning nipped many of the early crops and fruit flowers across the state with the coldest spots reported down in the teens in northern counties. In many areas, however, extensive damage was not expected because many of the crops have yet to be planted, and early warnings by the weather service gave many people time to protect their plants.

For many farmers, planting corn and harvesting first cutting hay will now come at the same time, and they will need to decide which is more important to do first in their farming operation. The photographer caught this tillage operation Wednesday afternoon at Ed and Shenda Sensenich's Sen-Shine Farm along Temperance Road, west of Lititz, in Lancaster County. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.

Community Supports Agriculture In This Kimberton 'Garden Of Eden'

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
KIMBERTON (Chester Co.) —
What if?

As in: "What if you took somebody's really diverse backyard garden and exploded it?"

As he says this, Kerry Sullivan

opens the door to a 76-foot long high tunnel filled with the smell of leafy vegetables. On a jute rope, robust cucumber vines languidly snake upward while romaine, leaf, and butterhead lettuce stretches to cover ground rich with compost.

Kerry points to one of the vines

and says, with a smile, "These are growing really well."

Because of the recent cold, wet weather, the greenhouse crops provide a hefty boost to start the vegetable growing season.

With wife Barbara, the Sullivans not only grow a wide variety

of vegetables organically but are on a mission to prove that small farms can be viable amidst explosive suburban growth.

Their Kimberton Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm, which encompasses about 10 acres of ground leased from a nearby private school outside Kimber-

ton, is very diversified. The literal "community garden" is home to about 55 different flower, fruit, and vegetable plants from which produce is grown for the community in which they live.

Crops are not grown by the acre, but by plots. For instance, the

(Turn to Page A20)



"Almost all of the strawberry beds are adopted by the members," said Kerry Sullivan, left. "Certain members will say, 'I'll take care of this bed for a year, weeding and whatever it needs.' That's worked out very well. So that frees us to grow other produce for them. They get excited about weeding strawberries because they love them." At right is wife Barbara.

AFB Elects Knill To National Board

RANDALLSTOWN, Md. — Maryland Farm Bureau President C. William Knill has been elected to the American Farm Bureau Federation's board of directors. In this position — he will be one of three people representing Northeastern farmers on AFBF's

27-person board.

Mr. Knill — Maryland Farm Bureau president since 1992 — will be completing the two-year term of Keith W. Eckel.

Mr. Eckel, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau president from 1974 to

(Turn to Page A28)

June Dairy Issue Coming

June Is Dairy Month. And our annual *Lancaster Farming* tribute to the dairy industry is scheduled to come to your farm on Saturday, June 1. Our staff and field correspondents have met with many farm families, and we will report what they have to say about their operations and the future of the dairy business. In addition, we will have news stories, farm management reports from the experts, dairy recipes, and messages from our advertisers.

If you have a news story or an advertising message to be placed in this special June Dairy Month issue, please call the office any day, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Our phone number is (717) 394-3047 or (717) 626-1164. Our Fax: (717) 733-6058.