

Life

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Tom and Shirley Krall stand with their children — from the left, Joel, Marlin, Louise, and Travis, kneeling — in front of their stone farm house. The family farms with a concentration on efficiency and efficacy, and that frequently means doing their own thinking. They also open their farm to school groups and outside groups in an effort to educate the public about farming and the origins of their food.

Innovation Helps Keep Family Dairy Competitive

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
REX MONT (Lebanon Co.) — Tom Krall keeps a daily diary of sorts of his activities as a dairy farmer. Using a calendar, one of the many which are distributed as promotional devices every year, he pens in notes of the previous day on the calendar block provided. He does this during the morning milking, reflecting back on the whole day. Sometimes it gets done during the evening milking. Then, on top of that, sometimes he gets ideas about something on the farm that keep nudging at him

until he writes it down. For his diary note keeping, he just started using four different colors of ink — blue for blue days; green for great days; red for exciting or memory keeping days; and black for business as usual. Black isn't used all that much. On a typical promotional calendar, the little blocks allocated to each day don't allow much writing space. And while his print is small, he said he doesn't need that much space. He said that what he tries to record are, "Things in between

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Del Val Celebrates Centennial

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
DOYLESTOWN (Bucks Co.) — Did you know: • Of the 1,350 students enrolled at Delaware Valley College (DVC), half of them study agriculture. And close to half of the agricultural students are enrolled in the college's animal science/dairy science program. • Of the 240 students in the ani-

mal science/dairy science program, only about four don't return home to the family farm. • For those who complete the program and graduate, employment opportunities abound, according to the college. For the more experienced students who grew up on a farm, the challenge that Delaware Valley College presents to the animal

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Logo Assures Egg Quality, Safety

Government Signs Agreement With Poultry Industry

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
LITITZ (Lancaster Co.) — "The finest production and processing are to no avail if we don't have the confidence of the consumer," Sen. Noah Wenger said about the egg industry's quest to eliminate the threat of foodborne illness. In a move to give consumers that vote of confidence, both the state agriculture and health departments joined forces with the Poultry Federation to sign an agreement and unveil a logo to be used to identify eggs produced and processed under the strictest control procedures. Officials met May 31 at

Sauder's Quality Eggs in Lititz. Long concerned about the need to reduce the risk of Salmonella enteritidis (SE), the poultry industry has been working closely with the Health Department, which provides technical advice regarding public health implications, and with the Department of Ag, which provides laboratory diagnostic services and monitors proper handling. Egg producers with the help of the Dept. of Ag organized a voluntary effort called Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance Program (PEQAP). Under PEQAP, management practices to reduce or pre-

vent contamination of eggs by SE and control procedures and testing protocols were developed. David Hensler of the Dept. of Ag said that the program PEQAP supports industry control from farm to table. "PEQAP is a successful program at the production level that has resulted in measurable reduction of SE flocks." "The program is based on good, sound research rather than emotion," Dr. John Schwartz, Penn State extension director for Lancaster, said. "By working together, we are able to solve problems quicker and better than any other

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Twin Baby Mules Born On Amish Farm



BIRD IN HAND (Lancaster Co.) — Some plain religious sects in other parts of the U.S. and in Canada do not use mules in their farm work because they believe the Bible teaches against the breeding of hybrids. As you know, a mule is a cross between a Jack in the donkey family and a horse. The offspring is a hybrid mutation with no reproductive powers. But in Lancaster County, the Amish have no such rules and many mules are used because of

their strength and surefootedness. In addition, a mule will rarely overeat to cause colic and other digestive problems. Baby mules are not rare in Lancaster County. But twin baby mules are. The 3-week-old babies named Jack and Moby in the picture and their mother, a Belgian mare, were found in a pasture along West Center Square Road off Rt. 772 between Leola and Talmage. The youngsters are obvious-

ly not identical twins because the one is light colored like her mother and the other is dark, we guess, like his father. They are on the farm of Daniel Glick. Daniel's neighbor Ed Reif thought the little mules were so cute with their big ears that he wanted to see a picture of them in *Lancaster Farming*. So here they are Ed, just as cute as you said they were. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.