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Lancaster Farming

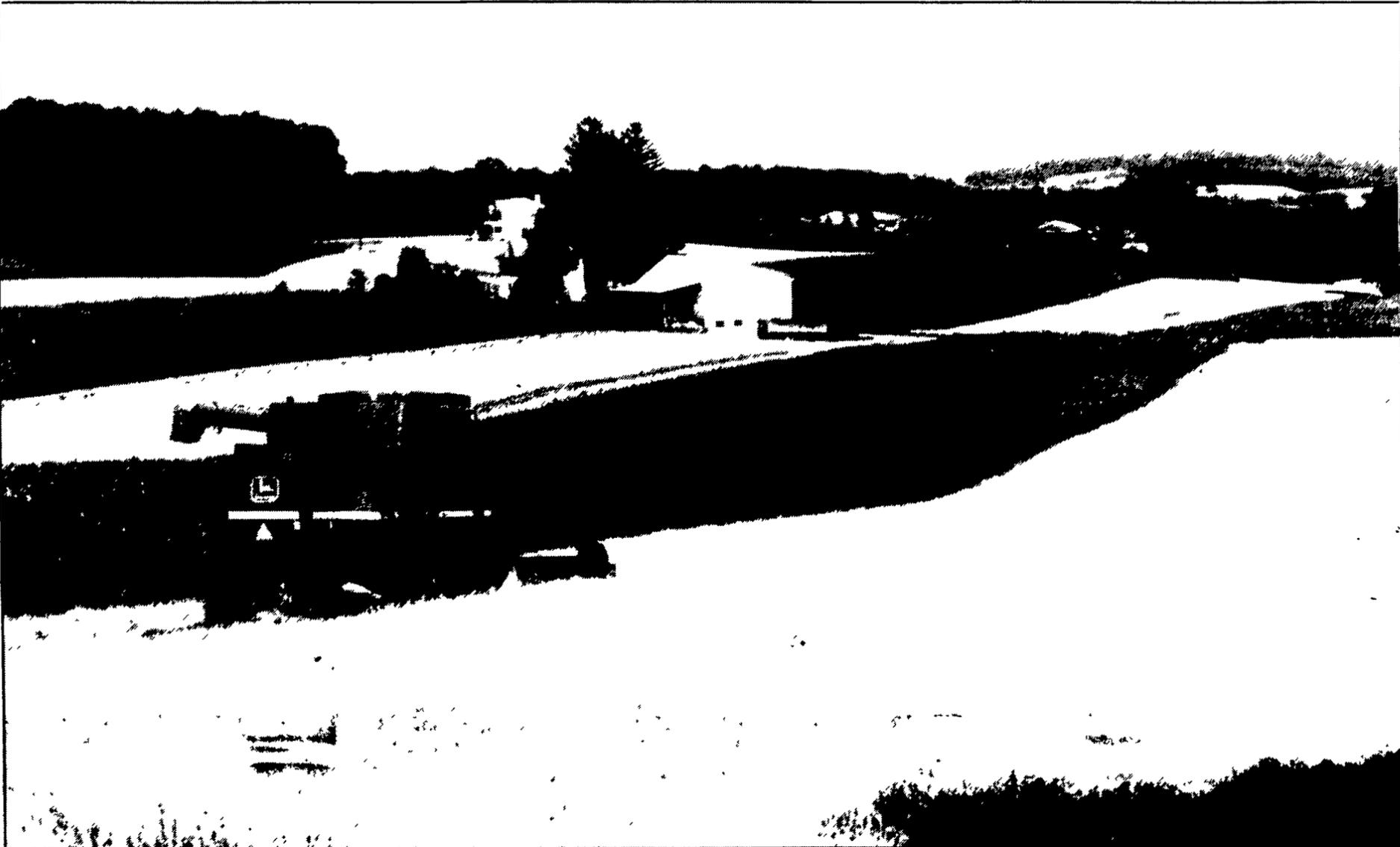
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Weather in the region finally gave farmers a chance to do some serious harvesting. After fields and crops dried out from showers early in the week, combines and hay making equipment could be seen almost anywhere you looked. Combines in wheat began in earnest in Lancaster County late Wednesday afternoon. In Northampton County, one farmer reported on Thursday that grain moisture was quite varied from field to field and even in the same field where ridges and valleys were drying out at different times. In Berks and Lehigh counties, combining was well under way late Thursday afternoon.

According to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service, based on

the acreage planted, the Keystone state's farmers will harvest 190,000 acres of winter wheat this year. That's up three percent from last year. The 75,000 acres of barley are already harvested, the same as last year.

Corn acreage to be harvested as grain is estimated at 1,050,000 acres, up seven percent. And soybean acreage for harvest is estimated at 285,000, down 10 percent from last year.

The harvesting scene above was captured along Rhoads Road looking east across the valley of corn and wheat strips between Krumnsville and Steins Corner in Berks County just south of the Lehigh County line. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.

State Budget Maintains Funding For Agriculture

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
 Lancaster Farming Staff
 HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania General Assembly recently approved

and the governor signed a \$16.375 million 1996-97 budget for state government which included restoration of funds for the University of Pennsylvania School of Veter-

inary Medicine, and increases of \$2 million each for Penn State University Extension and agricultural research.

State Secretary of Agriculture

Charles Brosius, said he was "delighted" with the support for his department for market development and research, and also for the Penn State funding increase.

Others have also issued statements of satisfaction with the budget, as many continued an almost decade-long description of the state budget as "austere."

The overall budget was close to that which Gov. Tom Ridge proposed as of early June. That proposal, however, eliminated specific

line item funding for University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Animal Center and for its School of Veterinary Medicine.

In Gov. Tom Ridge's proposal, Penn State Extension was targeted to receive a slight increase in funding.

In response to the governor's proposal (which called for reductions in state spending generally except for the prison system which got all but \$10 million of the prop-

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100 Turn Out For Weed Day

ANDY ANDREWS
 Lancaster Farming Staff
 LANDISVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — "We've had decent rainfall here at the station. The corn crop looks better than it's looked in the six years that I've been here."

Dr. Bill Curran, Penn State weed specialist, was assessing some of the results of Roundup Ready narrow-row corn trials when he realized how good a year it has been for corn and weed growth.

Curran and other specialists spoke on Monday at the Penn State-sponsored annual weed field day at the Southeast Research and Extension Center. About 100 farmers and agri-industry representatives spent the day looking at corn and soybean herbicide trials conducted during the growing season at the center.

For Curran, the year has brought mixed blessings. While moisture and temperature has been more than adequate for plant growth, too much moisture has left little residuals to handle later weed flushes.

Overall, though, when visitors have come to the field day in the past (over the last six years there have been about three droughts in the region), "usually it's sort of a desert. But it looks pretty good this year," Curran said.

Penn State has been conducting several trials with Roundup Ready corn. The corn variety, which has a projected release date of some quantities in the 1997-1998 growing season, will allow a broad-based application of Roundup herbicide post-emergence. The trials are also looking at the use of Roundup on the corn in 15-inch

versus 30-inch rows.

"One of the limitations with corn and post-emergence weed control has been the lack of residu-

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Boyd Appointed To Preservation Board

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — On Tuesday, Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Charles C. Brosius appointed Darvin E. Boyd, Akron, to the state Agriculture Land Preservation Board.

Boyd, senior vice president and director of the agrifinance department for CoreStates Bank, fills the ag lender position on the board vacated by Bill Hughes, Berks County.

Boyd is the second Lancaster county resident to serve on the board, joining farmer Ken Rutt of

Quarryville. Boyd was appointed to a four-year term.

Created in 1989, the board is responsible for the oversight of the state farmland protection program.

"Mr. Boyd's long record of service and leadership in the agricultural community, experience in state government, and demonstrated commitment to the preservation of our farmland will be valuable assets as he begins his service on the board," said Brosius, who chairs the board.

Boyd has served as president of

the Lancaster Farmland Trust from 1992-1995, where he is now an honorary trustee. He received the Trust's distinguished service award in November 1995. He also served as treasurer of the Lancaster County Vote Yes To Save Farmland Committee.

Boyd has a master's degree in public administration from Penn State. He served on the board of the Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County. He is chairman of the Lancaster County Human Relations Commission.