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Lancaster County Poultry Association President Don Brubaker Offers Producer's Perspective To Industry

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff

STRASBURG (Lancaster Co.) — As president of the Lancaster County Poultry Association, Don Brubaker offers a producer's perspective to the poultry industry.

While most past presidents of the association have been affiliated with the industry end, Brubaker does the hands-on work. His Beaver Creek Farm houses 90,000 chicks that he raises for the broiler industry.

He knows the daily grind required for feeding chickens, monitoring flock health, cleaning out manure, coping with the non-farming community's aversion to chicken odors and abnormal fears of contacting Salmonella enteridis, and a paycheck that never seems to grow enough to meet cost of living expenses.

"Being a producer I can't help but look at things differently than industry people," he said.

But that producer perspective has also gained Brubaker's respect for the industry viewpoint.

"We can't live without each other. The poultry industry has been on its toes since the beginning in developing a better chicken and

they've done a good job in marketing our product," Brubaker said. "I have a lot of respect for them."

Brubaker grew up on his parents' Strasburg poultry farm, the same one that he now owns.

"My parents started raising layers in 1952," he said. "Housing 6,000 birds back then was considered amazing, and the chicken house was called an ultra modern operation."

Poultry production has changed a lot in the intervening years. Several additional houses were erected and the switch was made from layers to pullets in 1959 and to broilers in 1968. When Brubaker took charge of the operation in 1991, he erected the fourth chicken house to bring the space to its present 90,000 bird capacity.

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Editor's Note: The Northeast Poultry Show is scheduled September 18-19 at the Lancaster Holiday Inn Host Resort. Our "Poultry Notes" section in this issue features this show along with other poultry features, management reports, a poultry meeting calendar, and advertising messages.



Don Brubaker, president of the Lancaster County Poultry Association, is shown with his wife Luann and sons Lamar, 20 months, and Quentin, 4 weeks. Two other sons, Devon, 11, and Halden, 8, were not available for pictures.

Penn State Interim Dean Alter Sees Bright Future For State Agriculture

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — "Agriculture is a critical sector of the economy and society in our state," said Theodore (Ted) Alter, Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences interim dean. "We have challenges in the college as well as in the agricultural community. But

my view is that this is a time of great excitement and opportunity for us, and we have great promise for the future."

Alter was the guest speaker at the regular meeting of the Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations at the Doubletree Hotel Monday. The new interim dean used the opportunity to introduce

himself to the agricultural community and to outline his agenda for moving the programs of the college forward.

"I believe in agriculture in our state, and I believe in our College of Agricultural Sciences," Alter said. "I don't know a time that I have been at Penn State that I have seen quite such strong, visible, vig-

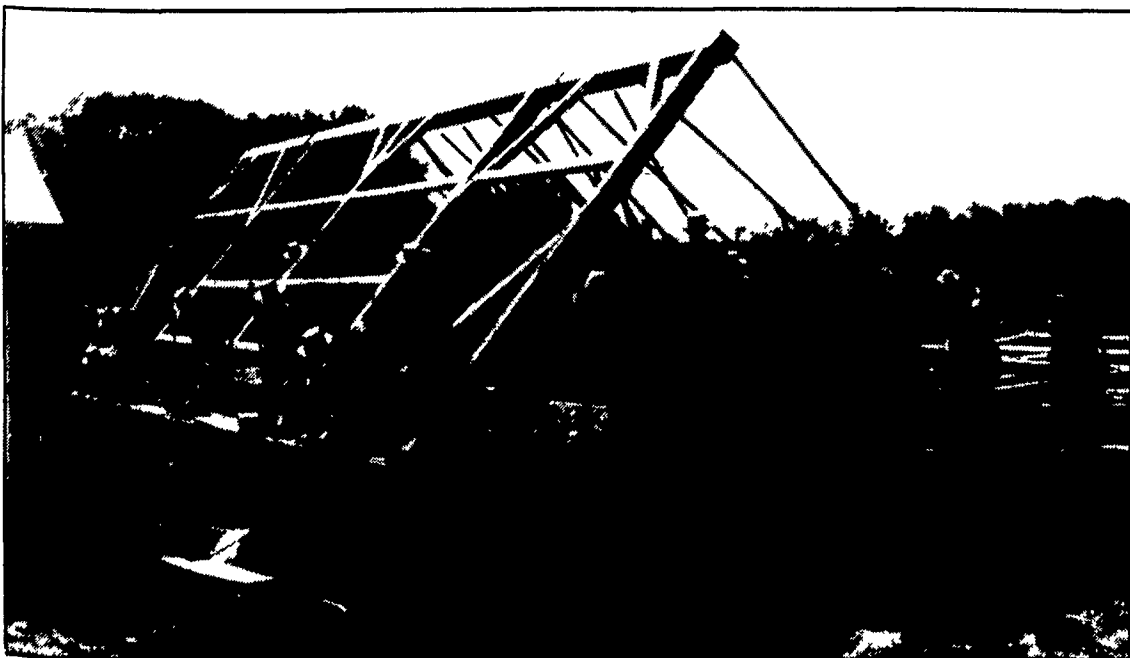
orous support as I have seen from President Spanier. Both President Spanier and Provost (John A.) Brighton are very strong advocates for Pennsylvania agriculture and of our College of Agricultural Sciences. This was quite evident on the state budget issue, and the College of Agricultural Sciences received an increase of 11.4 per-

cent and was the only unit in the university to receive an increase.

"My position is interim dean until a permanent dean is named," Alter said. "But I'm not just a caretaker. I can tell you unequivocally that my charge from the president and provost is to act like a permanent dean. That's what I'm com-

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Barn Raising Restores Burned York Dairy Farm



JOYCE BUYP

York Co. Correspondent
FAWN GROVE (York Co.) — With the smell of smoke still lingering over piles of bent and twisted roofing metal, three barns were rebuilt recently in the wake of a devastating fire on a Fawn

Grove-area Amish dairy farm.

The trio of barns on the John Lapp family dairy operation were discovered ablaze about 2 a.m. on August 21. Firefighters from several surrounding rural communities reportedly fought the blaze for

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USDA Economist: Corn Won't Run Out Despite Rumors

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff

MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — Contrary to widespread rumors that U.S. corn stocks could run out early next week, on Monday an USDA economist said we won't run out of corn — actually, some is already available from harvests well under way in the Southeast.

including corn, will continue to remain tight in 1997, through feed prices should rebound for most producers, providing minimal increases in across-the-board poultry production.

Dr. Milt Madison, ag economist and poultry team leader for the USDA Economic Research Service, spoke to 25 producers an agri-industry representatives on Monday afternoon at the Penn