

Lancaster Farming

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Robinson Honored, Kindigs Have Century Farm At Lancaster Ag Industry Banquet

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — With facts to back up their pride, national, state, and local farm and community leaders, one

after another, came forward Tuesday evening to extol the attributes of Lancaster County agriculture. The occasion was the annual agriculture industry banquet sponsored by the Lancaster Chamber of Com-

merce and Industry in conjunction with the National Farm City Week program.

National farm commentator Orion Samuelson sent an exclusive video greeting that told of his visits to the local agriculture community and presented a screen-full of facts to make any industry proud. According to Samuelson, Lancaster County has 5,030 farms, and they are first in the nation for ag receipts in the non-irrigated category. The county is also first in laying hens, pullets, and ag products sold for human consumption. It is

second in farms that have gross incomes over \$100,000 or more; fourth in number of farms; fifth in number of horses; sixth in number of dairy cows and hogs, and 13th in market value of all ag products sold.

In 1994, Lancaster ag receipts totaled \$835,570,000 (well above most states), and the local farm industry provided a base for 39,000 jobs.

Every second of the year, Lancaster County farms produce 80 eggs, 6 gallons of milk, 27 pounds of corn, and one pound of chicken.

"Agriculture is so basic to our well-being, our way of life, and to our economy," Samuelson said.

One of the highlights of the annual event is the announcement of the recipient of the George C. Delp award. This prestigious award is given as the premier mark of achievement in Lancaster County agriculture. The 1996 award was presented to Donald M. Robinson, who is the current district director of the Lancaster County Conservation District. Robinson was an agriculture teacher and young far-

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Don Robinson, right, received the 1996 George C. Delp award at the Lancaster County Ag Industry banquet. Adding congratulations are from left, Jim Shirk, agriculture services manager, and Mr. Delp, for whom the award was named.

Legislature Finishes, Work To Continue

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The state Legislature ended session Tuesday without local tax reform and without Gov. Tom Ridge's requested gas tax for road repair and maintenance.

Despite all the public attention and debate those two issues

received, the proposals died in the House of Representatives, though versions were approved by the Senate.

The state Legislature operates under a two-year session schedule. It coincides with the term of a representative in the House.

All legislative proposals made during those two years that didn't

receive full approval by both bodies of the Legislature are officially eliminated.

The next session of the state Legislature, starting January (though terms of office begin in December following election) is now free to take up any new business, or to revisit issues abandoned

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Turkey Farmers Prepare Store For Holiday Season

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
MECHANICSBURG (Cumberland Co.) — "There'll be times tomorrow when customers will be parking over there in the grass." Kent Strock pointed to some

land through which the farm entranceway passed, next to the farm store. Early this week he was busily spreading lime to mark parking spaces in gravel near the store.

On Monday Strock spoke to

Lancaster Farming about the nearly 600 cars that would be pulling into the farm store the next day — two days before Thanksgiving — to take home nearly 700 turkeys.

To make way for the hectic holi-

day rush, Strock took time from tending nearly 40 sows and about 2,600 turkeys on the farm to talk about the challenges that turkey producers face during a hectic holiday season.

Kent farms with wife Raelene

and Kent's parents Clyde and Mabel.

Two years ago Kent took over operation of the turkey business from his mother, Mabel. In the recent past, according to Mabel,

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Kent Strock raises 2,600 turkeys for wholesale and retail markets. Many are sold at the farm store, Strock's Farm Fresh Meats. Most of the Nicholas White poulters are purchased from Cuddy Farms out of Danville, Ohio. Strock holds up one of the hens in the photo on the left.

When they arrive at the farm, poulters are placed in the well-lit, naturally ventilated house (at right) built in the late '50s. "Some customers say that our turkeys are more white in color," said Strock, which he attributes to more exposure to sunlight in a naturally ventilated house with a dirt/sawdust floor. Photos by Andy Andrews