



## Lancaster DHIA Presents Awards

**EVERETT NEWSWANGER**  
Managing Editor  
SMOKETOWN (Lancaster Co.) — Officials of Lancaster DHIA reported a good year, with an increase in number of herds on test and a growth in the margin for the year. The county organization now has 1303 members in Lancaster, Chester, Lebanon, York, Dauphin, and Berks counties. The financial report showed a margin for the year

of 79,599.85.

Dave Garber in the treasurer's report said the additional cows on test and the cost reduction in being an independent affiliate with National DHIA had been leading factors in the increased profitability picture. Garber said the profits were used to reduce the debt from \$138,000 to \$47,000 with the goal to be debt free by the end of the current fiscal year.

Jay Mylin, manager, reported an addition of 174 herds, 113 of which had never been on test before. Ten years ago the association had 1,060 herds and now they have 1303. The testing lab has increased production by 5,000 samples per month to bring the total to 55,000 to 65,000. The future goal is to continue to manage the flow of samples that will maintain quality testing at the current levels.

Steve Hershey reported for the Lab Committee giving an overview of how DHIA has changed from an organization that guaranteed records of integrity to one that leaves the dairy farmer to decide what service is wanted and to judge the published records by the integrity of the dairy person who is advertising them.

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## Ag Awareness Across State

**AIRVILLE (York Co.)** — The Agriculture Awareness Ambassadors are preparing to carry Pennsylvania's story of agriculture across the state. Through a partnership spearheaded by the state Agriculture Awareness Foundation, farmers, agribusiness people, and other ag professionals will speak to non-farm groups. The presenters are getting ready to make speeches to consumers of Pennsylvania about the importance of agriculture to the economy and our lives.

Through a matching grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, AAFA is working with Penn State Cooperative Extension to place a slide set,

"Agriculture is Everywhere," in each county accompanied with background materials for speakers use.

Three of six orientations sessions have been held. Anyone interested in attending one of the remaining three sessions is welcome. All sessions are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and includes lunch.

They will be: Dec. 16 at the Embers (Best Western), Rt. 11, Carlisle. Feb. 4 at the Oakhurst Tea Room, Rt. 31, Somerset. Feb. 11 at the Inn at Franklin, Rt. 8, Franklin.

Though pre-registration is appreciated, it is not required. Please call, Pat Sueck, executive director, at (717) 862-3486.



Winning both the top milk production and the top protein awards in Lancaster DHIA is Marvin Stoltzfus, Leola, right. Marvin's 56 Holsteins averaged 26,616m 923f 842p for the year. Making the award presentations are from left, Jay Mylin, manager, and Joe Graybeal, president.

## Goss Family Receives Mifflin Award

**GAIL STROCK**  
Mifflin Co. Correspondent  
LEWISTOWN (Mifflin Co.) — In the spring of 1945, Guy and Lena Goss handed over half of their savings to purchase a 10-cow, 123-acre farm - all \$100 of it. The other hundred went to buy a team of horses. Now, 225

cows, 800 acres and six sons later, Guy and Lena watched their son Larry Goss accept the Mifflin County Farm Family Business Award during the Farm/County banquet held recently at the Penns Valley Christian Retreat Center near Lewistown.

Guy and Larry formed a part-

nership in 1972. Sons Mark and George joined in 1987. Hopes for a third generation will be met when Larry's son, Jason, graduates from Penn State this month with a degree in Dairy Sciences. The family farm is in Decatur Township.

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## Ag Plastics: Disposal Challenges Mount As Solutions Become Costly



Plastic disposal continues to be a problem which challenges farmers. At this Penn State display at this year's Animal Housing Expo in Lebanon, James Garthe, Penn State ag engineer, reminds producers not to "cook their own goose" by improperly disposing of plastics — options which are few.

**Editor's Note:** Last week, Part 1 of the series on disposal of ag plastics examined the challenges farmers face. There are few options, other than open burning, for farmers to dispose of plastics. Part 2 looks at some proposed solutions to the plastic dilemma.

Part 2 of 2

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — "It all boils down to economics and the American mentality — don't do it if it isn't economic," said a Penn State ag engineer.

On a mild day in November, James Garthe, agricultural engineer, spoke to Dale and Clair Hershey at the Hershey dairy farm in Manheim.

What the dairy producers talked about are the options for disposing of ag plastics, which are fast diminishing.

The Hersheys calculate that they dispose of a total of about 2,200 pounds of ag plastics each year. The plastics, from an array of silage bunkers and forage bags, are burned in an open cage.

Dale said that he uses a knife to cut the forage bag material, a forage plastic wrap bag, used for storing high moisture corn. Twice a week, using paper bags that hold several days of minerals for his total mixed rations, he throws the paper bags together with the thick plastic film into a six-foot square burn basket.

Included in the burn, conducted during the day in good weather

conditions, are pieces of plastic from the three large silage bunkers at the farm.

In many parts of the country, the concern producers have is that farm neighbors could complain about the burning.

"As the farm community and the

non-farm community heads further and further apart, or as the non-farm community knows less about farming, we get more of that," said Dale Hershey. "We haven't had serious problems — but every now and then somebody will stop in and

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## Advertising/News Deadlines For Holiday, Farm Show Issues

Now that we are into the month of December, farm families are preparing for the Christmas holidays. In addition, the New Year is not far behind and then thoughts turn toward the Pennsylvania Farm Show. For Lancaster Farming this means many of the advertising and news deadlines will need to be early to accommodate the publication of the December 28, and January 4 and 10 issues. Some of these deadlines are the week prior to the week of publication.

The deadlines are as follows:

### December 28th Issue

Public Sale Ads — Noon, Monday, 12/23.  
Mailbox Markets — Noon, 12/23.  
Classified Section C Ads — 3 p.m., Tuesday, 12/24.  
All Other Classifieds — 9 a.m., Thursday, 12/26.  
General News — Noon, Thursday, 12/26.

### January 4th Issue

Public Sale Ads — 5 p.m., Monday, 12/30.  
Mailbox Markets — 5 p.m., Monday, 12/30.  
Classified Section C Ads — 5 p.m., Tuesday, 12/31.  
All Other Classifieds — 9 a.m., Thursday, 1/2.  
General News — Noon, Thursday, 1/2.

### January 10th Issue

Public Sale Ads — 4 p.m., Friday, 1/3.  
Classified Section C Ads — 5 p.m., Tuesday, 1/7.  
All Other Classifieds — 9 a.m. Wednesday, 1/8.  
General News — Noon, Tuesday, 1/7.