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JIMANDOT Holsteins Grows Greenhouse Calves

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
 Lancaster Farming Staff
MILLBACH (Lebanon
 Co.) — Dairy farmers Jim and
 Dot Bennetch of Millbach raise

their registered Holstein calves in a
 "greenhouse."

Sort of.

Calling a building consisting of
 ribbed supports and a skin of white

plastic a "greenhouse" may be
 popular, but it seems inaccurate.

Especially when the building is
 designed to house cattle.

A "greenhouse" describes a

house for greenery, not Holsteins.

But this past year has seen the
 term become widely applied to
 describe lightweight, less expen-
 sive dairy cattle facilities.

In general, before the use of
 carbon-chain plastics, a "green-
 house" generally was made of
 glass, metal and wood, with a
 pane-glass roof.

They were used by the wealthy
 whose gardeners would cultivate
 plants for house decoration and
 landscaping. They were used by
 plant researchers, academic and
 amateur, and general plant hob-
 byists, and they also became used
 as commercial facilities for grow-
 ing flowers, herbs, starter plants,
 etc.

When structures incorporating
 plastic films became available to
 the horticultural industry, it still
 took some time before they
 became accepted as replacements
 for the sturdier-appearing glass,
 and metal roofed and sided
 buildings.

However, most of the commer-
 cial greenhouses constructed today
 are made with plastics.

Perhaps as more and more of
 traditional building materials
 become replaced with plastics and
 composites out of economic need,
 the term "greenhouse" will be
 dropped in lieu of more accurate
 and specific terminologies.

And perhaps then people will
 drop the "greenhouse" and "hot-
 house" associations that may tend
 to shy them away from considering
 such facilities for production ani-
 mal agriculture.

Dairy cattle need cool, clean,
 and flowing fresh air — not
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Standing in front of the old limestone farmhouse at
 JIMANDOT Holsteins, James Bennetch holds the halter of
 an 89-point Bova Glow daughter that made 140 pounds last

test, while wife Dot controls the family dog Corky, and from
 the left, James' mother Martha stands with son Jim and
 Dot's son Christopher and daughter Jessica.

CMA Conference Provides Insights Into Agriculture's Economic Future

ANDY ANDREWS
 Lancaster Farming Staff
UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre
 Co.) — Near-ideal nationwide
 growing conditions throughout the
 summer last year helped create the
 third largest corn crop on record,
 which could do wonders to help
 improve carryover despite contin-
 ued heavy corn use by the poul-

try and swine industries, according
 to a Penn State economist.

H. Louis Moore, Penn State eco-
 nomist, spoke to about 60 crop
 consultants, crop management
 association (CMA) managers, pro-
 ducers, in addition to college,
 agency, and business representa-
 tives at the Penn State Scanticon
 Conference Center on Monday.

Moore spoke at the 13th annual
 meeting of the Pennsylvania CMA
 (PCMA) and provided insight into
 the direction of the U.S. and state
 agricultural economies. Moore
 was one of several speakers offer-
 ing information to the nine state
 CMA chapters and their represen-
 tatives regarding "Insights Into the
 Current Ag Economy and New

Technologies," the conference
 theme.

Moore told those at the PCMA
 meeting that U.S. corn harvest for
 1996, according to latest USDA
 figures, was 9.27 billion bushels.
 Wheat harvest stands at 2.28 bil-
 lion bushels and soybean harvest
 was 2.4 billion bushels.

For the state, corn growers
 harvested 129.2 million bushels,
 not a record year (the record was in
 1985 when the state harvested
 151.8 million bushels). However,
 1996 was a record for the amount
 of bushels per acre, according to
 Moore, at 123 — compared to only
 110 bushels per acre in 1985.

Overall corn production is down
 because, as one producer who
 attended the meeting admitted,

land is being lost to houses, park-
 ing lots, and shopping centers.
 Also, more soybeans are being
 grown in the state.

Corn use is increasing at pork
 and chicken finishing facilities.
 Corn use stands at 165 million
 bushels a week nationwide. Corn
 carryovers, according to Moore,
 stood at 426 million bushels as of
 Sept. 1, 1996. USDA projects car-
 ryover as of Sept. 1 of this year to
 be 1,107 million bushels, 435 mil-
 lion bushels of wheat, and 210 mil-
 lion bushels of soybeans.

But with the increasing use of
 corn and with the unpredictability
 of growing conditions, Moore told
 those at the meeting, "I think there
 will be less than a billion bushels

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Horse World Expo Held In Maryland

LOIS SZYMANSKI
 Maryland Correspondent
TIMONIUM, Md. — Friday to
 Sunday, Jan. 10-12, featured the
 biggest event of its kind ever to
 come to the Maryland region.
 Trainers, horsemen, and equine
 experts came together to share
 information, offer goods for sale,
 and to entertain horse enthusiasts
 of every age and level at the Horse
 World Expo at the Maryland State
 Fairgrounds.

The show was the brainchild of
 organizer Denise Isaac of Balti-
 more County.

"I literally woke up one morn-
 ing with the idea for this," she
 said. But thinking about how to
 organize, and put it together was
 an overwhelming task for Isaac.
 "I'm also a competitive bass

fisher," she said, "so I decided to
 call on Bob Dobart, who runs the
 big Fishing Expo at the Fair-
 grounds each year. I had to work
 up my nerve to call him," she said,
 admitting that at the time, she was
 in awe of Dobart.

Isaac started riding when she
 was six years old. She said she has
 ridden English and Western,
 shown, worked with draft horses,
 and now owns an Appaloosa and
 rides mostly for relaxation. Isaac
 said she talked with Eugenia
 Snyder, one of the organizers of
 Ohio's Equine Affaire (a similar
 show), to get advice. With
 Dobart's expertise they decided to
 book the top names in the indus-
 try, including John Lyons, Richard
 Shrake, Kenny Harlow, animal
 communicator, Anita Cur-

tis, and a unique demonstration of
 Native American horsemanship
 given by GaWaNi PonyBoy, a
 Native American of Cherokee
 descent.

For years John Lyons has been
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State Farm Organizations Want USDA To Continue Dairy Support Activities

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
 Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin
 Co.) — For many dairy farm fam-
 ilies, the reality of the plunge in
 milk value hit just about
 Christmas.

The milk check to the farm has
 been slashed significantly because

the officially calculated value of
 milk dropped because the sale
 price of cheese dropped in a mark-
 et that trades less than 1 percent of
 the nation's cheese.

The price of milk paid to farm-
 ers is set by the federal govern-
 ment which uses a formula that
 takes into account the market val-

ues of milk and milk component
 products, such as butter, milk
 powder and cheese.

The drop in cheese price at the
 National Cheese Exchange (NCE),
 which the USDA uses to set mini-
 mum milk prices, caused a \$4.05
 per hundredweight (cwt.) decline

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