



For Fruit Growers, Cold Weather Damage Will Depend On Location, Varieties

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff
BIRD IN HAND (Lancaster Co.) — Cold weather the first weekend in April didn't necessarily spell catastrophic losses for fruit growers, as some in the industry originally thought.

Actually, for peach growers, it may have helped to thin the fruit

set.

But for growers of Red Delicious apples and for growers in certain locations, crop damage could have been extensive and costly.

Growers in the south central part of the state with orchards on south slopes of hills below the mountains should be concerned that certain

apple and peach varieties (especially early varieties of peaches) could have experienced damage because of cold temperatures in which temperatures dropped to 24 degrees or below, according to Tim Elkner, Lancaster horticulture agent.

Peach tree blossom damage
(Turn to Page A22)

Convention Brings Jersey Enthusiasts Together

CAROLYN N. MOYER

Bradford Co. Correspondent
POTTSVILLE (Schuylkill Co.) — Jersey breeders from across Pennsylvania gathered in Pottsville April 18 and 19 to celebrate achievements, present awards, and conduct their annual meeting.

The convention opened Friday night with an awards banquet highlighted by the crowning of the 1997 Pennsylvania Jersey Queen.

After delivering a presentation and answering an impromptu question, Jennifer Harris of Le-

high County was chosen to wear the crown and succeed 1996 Pennsylvania Jersey Queen, Roberta McConnell.

Also a current Northampton/

Lehigh County Dairy Princess, Harris is a senior at Northwestern High School. She is the daughter of Lynn and Renee Harris and

(Turn to Page A25)



On Tuesday afternoon this week, Ken Kauffman, orchard manager with A.L. Kauffman Sons, inspects peach trees at the Kauffman's Bird in Hand location. A.L. Kauffman and Sons, in the industry since 1915, grows about 40 varieties of peaches on 35 acres. They grow 80 acres of apples, 1½ acres of plums, three acres of pears, and 1½ acres of cherries.

DAIRY WEEK

DAIRY MARKET PRICE COMMENTARY

This week, *Lancaster Farming* begins a new weekly market commentary for dairy farmers. As government moves away from dairy price supports, the need to follow dairy markets increases. Dairy Week will appear near the end of our regular market pages—this week turn to page A20.



The well-kept dairy farm of Norm and Kathy Hershey and son and daughter-in-law Mike and Tina, and grandson Tyler represents the 8th gen-

eration of the family to live on the farm and is located along Route 340 east of Intercourse in Lancaster County.

DHIA National Director, State President Gives Thoughts On The Dairy Situation

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

GORDONVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — "Good cows, good feeds, and hard working people have made a lot of successful dairy farmers in the past and will do so in the future."

This quote came from an on-farm interview with Norm Hershey, the new national director of

DHIA. In addition, on Wednesday, the Pennsylvania DHIA board elected Hershey president of the state organization.

At home where Hershey's family farm, located along Route 340 east of Intercourse, now extends to the 8th generation, dairy philosophy is turned into everyday practice.

Quality forages are grown on the 300 farmed acres. These home-grown feeds are balanced in a TMR mix made to accommodate a one-grou cow operation.

"The most important management activity on the farm is producing the best forages possible," Hershey said. "This is true especially where farmland comes with

such a high value land base. With high fixed costs and overhead, you must get production to pay the bills. If you have the farm paid for and want to coast, that's fine. But if you have a mortgage to pay, you need to shoot for high production."

For Norm and his wife Kathy and their son, Mike, daughter-in-law Tina and grandson, Tyler, age

1, this translates into a 21,000 lb. herd average on 65 registered Holsteins. They raise all the heifer calves for replacements and cash crop soybeans. But most of the farming operation revolves around producing milk.

With his new responsibilities in both the national and state DHIA

(Turn to Page A27)