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Joy Hess, president of Pennsylvania FFA with its 8,000 members, lives on her parents' Gettysburg farm. To learn more about the Hess family who farm 1,000 acres, milk 350 cows, and are in the midst of expansion, turn to page B12.

## Drought Watch Declared For Thirty-Four Counties In Susquehanna River Basin

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Officials from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) Thursday, declared a drought watch for 34 Pennsylvania counties in the Susquehanna River Basin.

A drought watch is the first and least severe of the three drought declarations. It calls for a voluntary five percent reduction of non-essential water use. A drought warning, the second stage of the three drought declarations, calls for a 10 percent voluntary reduction in water consumption, and a drought emergency, the third and most severe stage, imposes mandatory restrictions on water use. A drought emergency was last declared in Pennsylvania in September 1995.

Lt. Gov. Mark Schweiker, who chairs the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Council, has requested that a working group of the council's drought task force

meet Friday morning to evaluate the current and possible long-range effects of the drought on the state's public health and safety, business community and agricultural industry. Members of the task force include representatives from the departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources, Environmental Protection, General Services, Health, Military Affairs, State Police, the Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

"Without significant precipitation, conditions are deteriorating rapidly in the central part of the state," DEP Secretary James M. Seif said. "We are asking residents and businesses alike to voluntarily cut back their daily water use to avoid a more serious situation in the near future."

"SRBC's commissioners voted just this morning to declare a drought watch for the entire Susquehanna River basin including (Turn to Page A23)

## Heat No Distraction For Golfers At FFA Fundraising Event

ANDY ANDREWS  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
STEVENS (Lancaster Co.) — Exactly 221 golfers braved intense heat and humidity Monday to spend a day having fun and raising money for the largest youth agricultural organization in the world — FFA.

They assembled from all around the region at two golf courses — Foxchase near Stevens and Hawk Valley near Bowmansville — to golf. Cost was \$85 a person. Their mission: have fun, but at the same time support the Pennsylv-

vania FFA Foundation at its chief fundraising event.

The occasion: The fifth annual Hoss's Fore FFA Golf Tournament and Dinner/Auction. It was the first time the event was held at two courses.

Kerry Hoffman, FFA Foundation secretary and event coordinator, noted that because of the huge turnout at last year's event, two courses were needed. Each course easily accommodated more than 200 golfers.

Finishing in first place at Hawk (Turn to Page A24)



Finishing in first place at Fox Chase with a score of 59, best score of the day, was, from left, Scott Gold, John Coldiron, Dave Huston, and Steve Moran.

## A.I.-Infected Flock Will Be Used For Tests

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — A flock of 90,000 laying hens was highly suspected of carrying the avian influenza (A.I.) virus on Monday, according to Dr. Phil Debok, chief of the animal health division of the Pa. Bureau of Animal Health.

The flock is the 10th flock in Lancaster County identified as A.I. infected, though positive confirmation of A.I. was not available as of presstime.

On Tuesday the 11th flock, a poultry complex of 520,000 birds near Farmdale, was also highly suspected of carrying A.I.

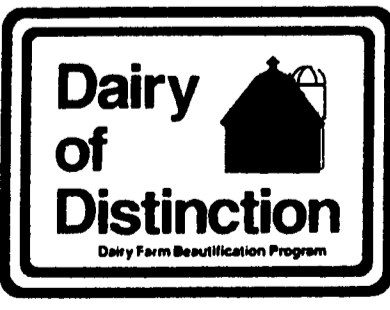
Both flocks are in the quarantine zone still in effect in the northern part of the county. The 90,000-layer flock was close to other confirmed A.I. flocks. It was reported that the fate of a 72,000-layer flock officially diag-

nosed with A.I. last week was undecided. This week, the industry and state department of agriculture decided to make use of the facility to study the spread of A.I. and come up with ways to stop it.

Debok indicated that the department will be looking into vectors that can carry the virus. They include wild fowl (starlings), flies, and the effects of wind currents. The flock will be used approximately 30 days and will undergo a barrage of tests.

Early in the week, industry representatives expressed their frustration at being unable to come up with ways to defeat the virus. Now, more is needed to find out how it is spread and practical ways, even beyond strict biosecurity, that can be employed on the farm to control A.I.

## New Dairy Distinction Farms Named



Editor's Note: A special section dedicated to the Dairy of Distinction program will be featured in next week's issue of Lancaster Farming. We will have photographs of the new farms, a list of all the winners since the program began in 1987, information to enter your farm in 1998, and messages from our advertisers.

EVERETT NEWSWANGER  
Managing Editor

State College (Centre Co.) - Everyone traveling in Pennsylvania, both residents and non residents, will have beautiful dairy farms to observe as they drive through our countryside. A special reminder of this fact comes each year as the new Dairy of Distinction award winners are announced. This year 26 new dairy farms have been added to the 633 farms that received the recognition since the program began in Pennsylvania in 1987.

The Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification program sponsors these awards to recognize those dairy farmers who pay particular attention to the appearance of their land and buildings. Most people

who drive by the farm don't realize that in addition to a lot of work to produce milk, it also takes a lot of effort to keep the farmstead looking good too. But whenever a consumer sees a nice looking dairy farm, the association with good wholesome milk is easy. And milk gets good publicity.

Russ Rooks, president of the Pennsylvania program said that dairymen want the sign at their farm to provide advertising for milk. Others use the designation to help find good employees for the farm.

Created in 1983, the Dairy of Distinction Program, is designed to highlight those farms that help to create a positive image for milk.

(Turn to Page A25)