

Lancaster Farming

Vol. 42 No. 38

Five Sections

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, July 26, 1997

\$28.50 Per Year

60¢ Per Copy



When urbanization encroached on the Smith family's New Jersey farm, they reluctantly sold it and bought one in Reinholds. Turn to B 2 to read how the Smith family found success at King and Queen Farm, about their daughter Elizabeth, who is Lancaster County dairy princess, and sons Brian, right, and Andy. Photo by Lou Ann Good.

State Ag Secretary Hayes Issues Order

Five More Flocks Have Avian Influenza, Poultry Shows Canceled

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — As an added measure to stop the spread of avian influenza, Agriculture Secretary Samuel E. Hayes Jr. issued an order Thursday, canceling live poultry exhibits at agricultural fairs in nine counties for the remainder of 1997. Counties included in the order are Berks, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montgomery, Schuylkill and York.

"This is a precaution we believe is necessary to prevent any possible spread of the H7N2 virus," Hayes said. "We will make sure that those fairs which cancel live poultry exhibits are still eligible for reimbursement for exhibit costs."

Also, Hayes confirmed that an additional five flocks, comprised of approximately 750,000 birds, have been found to be positive for

the avian influenza virus through active surveillance. One flock is being maintained as a study flock to try to gain additional information on the avian influenza. So far, over 1 million laying hens have been depopulated in Lancaster and Lebanon counties.

A quarantine to stop the spread of avian influenza was placed on a 75-square-mile area of northwestern Lancaster County on May 16.

Hayes said he is working closely with Pennsylvania U.S. Sens. Rick Santorum and Arlen Specter to encourage the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to allow the development of a protective vaccine. Nearly 4 million doses of the vaccine are currently being developed and stockpiled for possible uses if the virus continues to spread.

An influenza risk-assessment

team from the USDA is in Pennsylvania this week, meeting with state Agriculture Department and poultry industry leaders to determine a future course of action. This is a first step in providing the necessary background should the request be made to use the vaccine.

While there is no threat to human health, the quarantine in Lancaster County will continue.

On June 18, Gov. Tom Ridge signed into law a bill to appropriate \$5 million to provide financial assistance to Lancaster and Lebanon county poultry producers affected by the outbreak.

The poultry industry makes a \$563 million contribution to the Commonwealth's economy. Of the 25 million chickens in the Commonwealth, 17 million are in Lancaster County.

Growing Corn By Degree (Days)

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.

Lancaster Farming Staff
LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — "Growing degree days" are more and more becoming part of the mainstream farming vocabulary and Lebanon County agronomy Extension Agent Delbert Voight said that those who aren't using the measurement tool to help with crop management are missing out.

Corn is king in Lebanon County, Voight said recently, referring to results of data he collected this past year from 270 fields in the county.

He did the survey to establish existing planting patterns and weed problems (perennials are the main problem with thistle heading the list) so as to have a base from which to work to help provide growers with research-based information for bettering their

production.

But knowing, as he already guessed from observation, that corn is king in Lebanon County, he also knew that the farmers have a valuable tool available to them that not many use or of which they might not be aware.

Corn is a crop for which "growing degree days (GDD)" work well, he said.

Voight said earlier this year that farmers, especially dairy producers who raise most of their own feed, would probably do well to learn about and use GDD as a management tool.

Growing degree days is a measurement of the energy usable by a specific variety of plant. Correlations between plant growth stages and the amount of calculated GDD is established through research.

Most of the corn seed compa-

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Clover Grand Champion At Lancaster Holstein Show

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.) - Silvermine Holsteins, Willow Street, owned by the Thomas family took top honors at the Lancaster County Holstein show with the grand, reserve grand, and reserve junior champions. Donegal Creek farm, Columbia owned by the Joe Wivell family was premier breeder, and Wengdale Farm, Quarryville, owned by the Bob Wenger family was premier exhibitor.

The stylish C Wridale Broker Clover, topped the senior three-year-old class for Sandra Thomas and went on to be the grand champion of the show. The Broker daughter out of Jaclean Jet Cake is working on 30,000m 1,100f 1,000p. The reserve grand champion was the senior two-year-old, MVF Raider Desaray.

The junior champion for both the open and youth shows was Howcrest Mandel Charlyse, the homebred fall calf shown by Lindsey Howard, Willow Street. The reserve junior champion in the open show was Silvermine Mandel Raye, the winter yearling shown by Austin Thomas. And the reserve junior champion of the youth show was Hilltop-Heritage Star Lizzy, a spring yearling shown by Crystal Brubaker, Mt. Joy.

The grand champion of the youth show was Welk-Acers Raider Mandy, the junior three-year-old entry of Andy Welk. Randy Wenger had the reserve grand champion of the youth show with Wengdales Horace Honey.

While the number of entries was down this year, Judge Steve Wood, an Adams County Holstein breed-

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Ag Progress Days Coming

The time for the annual Ag Progress Days, sponsored by Penn State's College of Agriculture Sciences at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rock Springs, is fast approaching. Scheduled for August 12 to 14, the show includes more than 300 commercial exhibitors and research and education programs that address issues of interest to every farmer. *Lancaster Farming's* August 9 issue will pay special tribute to this event with field maps, schedules of events, new areas of interest, and messages from our advertisers. To have your advertising included in this issue, call us anytime during office hours Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (717) 394-3047 or (717) 626-1164.

Dairy Of Distinction Section

In a special section this week, we honor the new Pennsylvania winners of the Dairy of Distinction awards. Look for photographs of each farm, information about how to obtain the distinction for your farm next year, and messages from our advertisers. We congratulate all the winners.