

Life Sci

Lancaster Farming

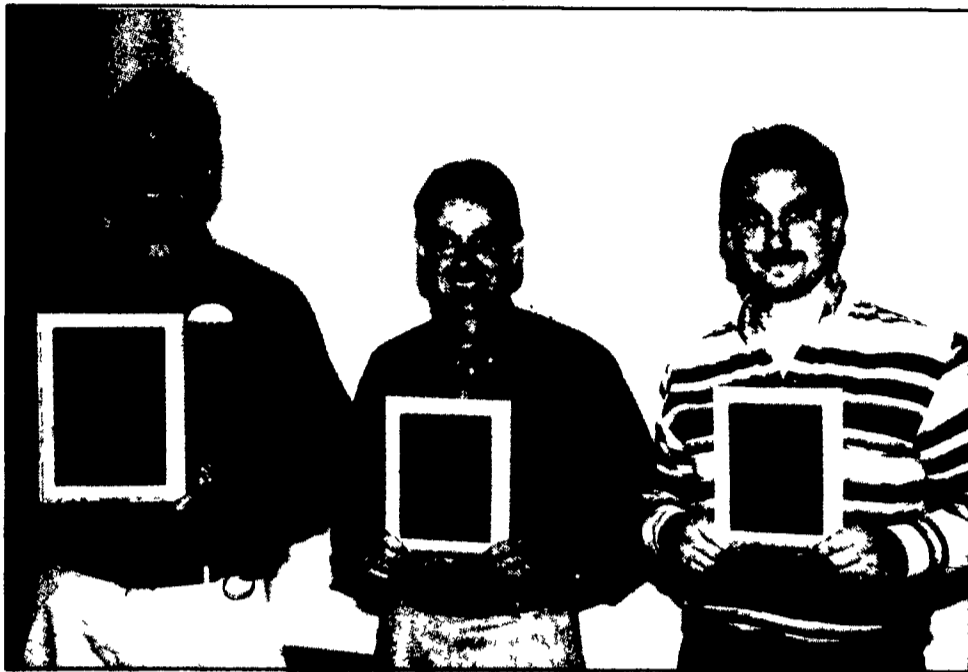
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Four Sections

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Pennsylvania Soybean Yield Contest winners. From left, first place went to Jon Stutzman, second to Nelson Beam, and third to Steven Wenger.



First-place winners in the 5-Acre Corn Club contest are, from left, Jeff Mitchell, first place in the three-year average awards, shelled grain class, regular harvest size; Richard Crone, first place, 1997 champion, 3-acre plus harvest size; and David Schantz, first place, 1997 champion, ear corn class, hand harvest.

About 200 Attend Corn, Soybean Conference

Starting This Summer, El Nino Effects May Actually Reverse

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania's own climatologist made his spring predictions for the state last week.

Expect a continued mild remainder of the winter, cool to cold temperatures, below to much below normal precipitation in the west, and normal to above-normal precipitation in the eastern half.

However, according to the statistical models of prediction, there could be a reverse for next winter, according to a presentation made at the 1998 Pennsylvania Corn and Soybean Conference last week at the Holiday Inn in Grantville.

Paul Knight, state climatologist with the Penn State Department of Meteorology, said at the conference that based on numerical and statistical models, it looks like the "La Nina will be back," said Knight. If that happens, he noted, "watch out for extreme cold next winter."

According to Dr. Louis M. Thompson, emeritus associate dean of agriculture at Iowa State University who spoke at the Corn

Conference six years ago, the La Nina is a Spanish phrase meaning "little girl." It is marked by high pressure which dominates over western South America and low pressure over Australia. When an El Nino (Spanish for "the boy") occurs, the patterns flip-flop, creating a situation of cool, rainy

weather in California and the Southwest and drought in Australia and Indonesia.

What is El Nino? Generally, it's

the natural phenomenon attributed to the warming of the Pacific Ocean waters west of South America and the central part of the

ocean. Since the announcement was made about the El Nino effects, there has been such a
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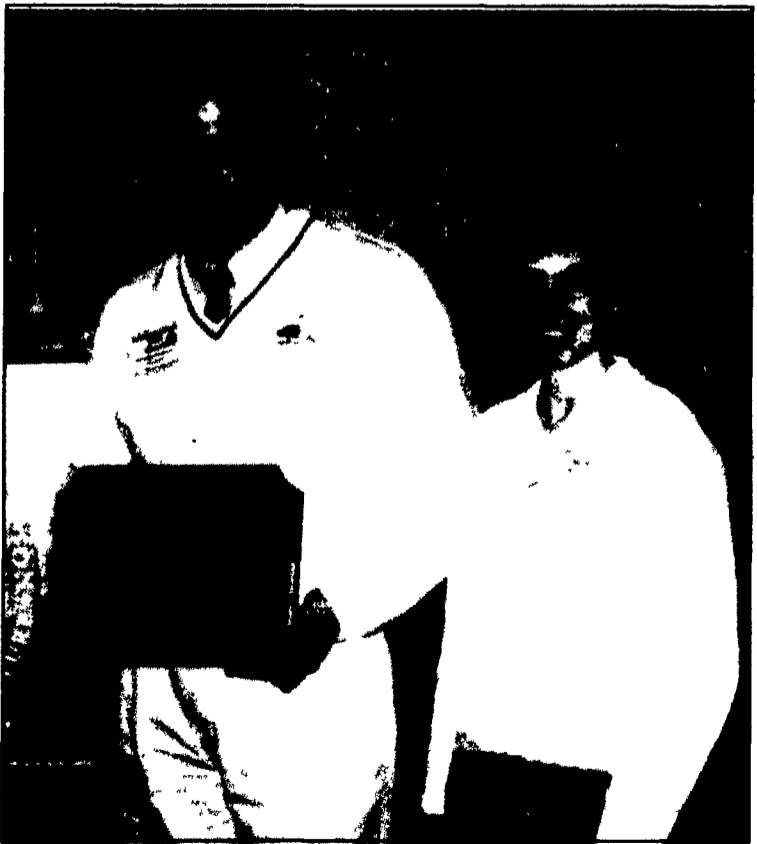
Edward Brake received the prestigious Clyde S. Robinson award at the Pennsylvania DHIA banquet Thursday night.

GAIL STROCK
Mifflin Co. Correspondent
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — A New Holland, Lancaster County, couple accepted the sixth annual Leadership Award at the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture's (PASA) Farming For the Future Conference in State College. Lee Bentz from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture presented the plaque.

Weaver Family Earns PASA Leadership Award

Don and Linda Weaver farm in partnership with Don's brother Nelson and his wife Joyce at Weaver Homestead Farm, a

106-acre dairy with a 90-cow milking herd. The Weavers are ninth-generation farmers who
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Don and Linda Weaver, from Weaver Homestead Farm in New Holland, were the recipients of the Sustainable Ag Leadership Award at the recent Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) conference. Weaver Homestead is a ninth generation Lancaster County dairy farm.

Producers Seek Dairy Compact Legislation

JOYCE BUPP
York Co. Correspondent
GALETON (Potter Co.) — "Dairy farmers are going through critical financial and changing policy times. We need to have at our disposal all the tools we can possibly use," said Galeton dairy farmer Lewis Gardner.

"Dairy compacts," he added, "offer dairy producers another management tool."

Gardner, newly-elected chairman of the Northeast Council of Dairy Farmers of America, once opposed the concept of farmer's joining ranks to form compacts.

DHIA Reports Good Year

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania DHIA held its annual meeting Thursday and reported another successful year. General manager David Slusser said the organization "reported another profit, increased member equity, and paid off our major loan."

"Your cooperative accomplished a major change in direction

over the last four years as a result of teamwork between the board, the employees, and the members," Slusser said. "The strategic long-range plan developed by the board has been enacted, and 1998 will see new services developed and new markets explored."

President Norm Hershey said that one of the goals met during 1997 was the retirement of debt of several years standing. "This did

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