

056034 980331 02  
PERIODICALS DIVISION  
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY  
W209 PATTE LIBRARY  
UNIV PARK PA 16802

*Life Sci*

# Lancaster Farming

Vol. 43 No. 22 Four Sections Lancaster Farming, Saturday, April 4, 1998 \$28.50 Per Year 60¢ Per Copy

## American Farmland Trust Supports Family Farming

**VERNON ACHENBACH JR.**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
BOILING SPRINGS (Cumberland Co.) — The general public appreciates and desires farmland preservation, but not necessarily for the same reasons cited by most farmers, according to Ralph Grossi, president of the national farmland preservation organization, American Farmland Trust.

20 states — from California to Pennsylvania — who attended a regional national convention of American Farmland Trust at the Allenberry Resort Inn and Playhouse in Boiling Springs.

buyers that the property is located in a farming area and what that means.

workshops and seminars over the course of the convention with speakers representing various agencies and preservation programs.

rams in the various states with established farmland preservation programs.

The purpose of the convention was to bring together active preservation leaders from around the nation to share experiences, with the goal of better arming the entire group with ideas to use to further efforts back home.

Grossi was the key speaker during the final day of the convention. He told the group that their presence at the convention indicated the growth of the farmland preservation movement in its short life of 10 to 15 years.

"It's a very short time," he told them, citing a national effort to protection wilderness areas that

(Turn to Page A32)

## Maryland/Virginia Reviews Year, Honors Young Cooperators

**KAREN BUTLER**  
Maryland Correspondent  
HAGERSTOWN, Md. — In spite of a changing business landscape, Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative was able to meet the challenges of 1997 and has a vision for the future, according to John Hardesty, president of the co-op. Mr. Hardesty shared his optimism with dairy producers at the 78th annual meeting of the association held at the Ramada Inn at Hagerstown.

perceived for the upcoming year focused on the volatile issues surrounding the reorganization of the industry and tensions between environmental concerns and agriculture. Specifically, Hardesty identified three areas Maryland and Virginia could concentrate on during 1998 to ease the transition into the future and provide equitable returns to producers. "Developing closer working relationships with others, helping other regions balance their markets in terms of surplus and shortage, and developing expanded class I sales in the South" will be key to a successful 1998, according to Hardesty.

(Turn to Page A24)



Leonard and Bonnie Jo Greek, Delta, were named Outstanding Young Cooperators at the Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association annual meeting. Photo by Karen Butler, Maryland Correspondent.

## Daylight-Saving Time Starts Sunday

Officially, at 2 o'clock Sunday morning, April 5, daylight-saving time again makes its debut in preparation for summer. Farmers with livestock, especially dairymen, will want to make a gradual change in feeding and milking schedules to minimize the disruption. To be sure you are on time, set your clocks one hour ahead Saturday night before you go to bed.

## Fletcher Named Adams County Conservation Farmer

**JINNY WILT**  
Adams Co. Correspondent  
YORK SPRINGS (Adams Co.) — The district has a dream.

Those attending the district's 23rd annual awards banquet in the York Springs Fire Hall last month heard about that dream which in-

cludes a new building that would not only house the agency, but some Adams County offices.

Gary Shaffer of Gettysburg, the project's consultant/architect for the district, explained very early plans set an estimated cost of the

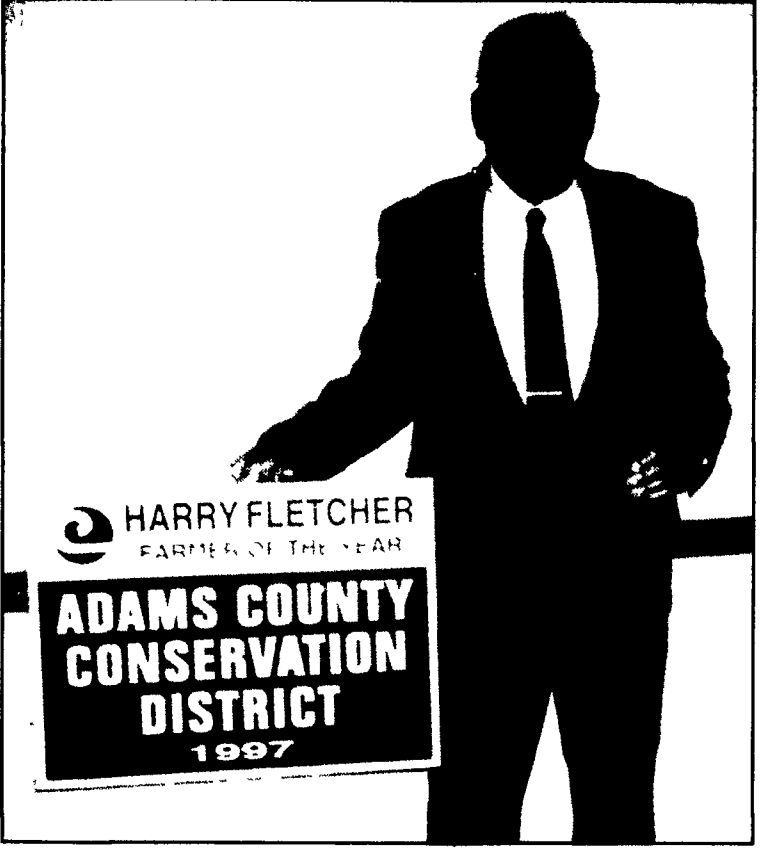
building at \$2.4 million that would be funded through a mortgage or bonds. There would also be a capital funds campaign.

The building is expected to be 32,000 square feet and would be located on county land where the

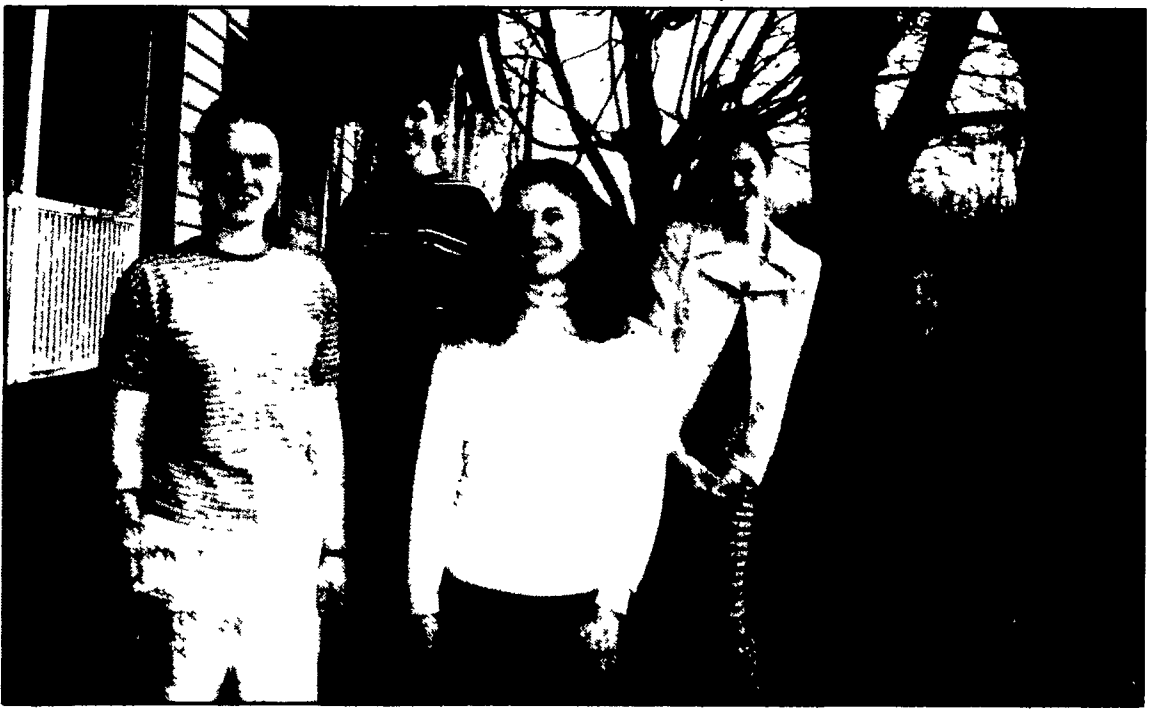
Almshouse — a county home — once stood north of Gettysburg along Business Route 15.

Shaffer said the current building plans include meeting rooms, display areas, educational facilities

(Turn to Page A22)



Harry Fletcher of Reading Township was named Adams County Conservation Farmer of the Year at the district's annual meeting. Photo by Ginny Wilt, Adams Co. Correspondent.



Surrounded by her four daughters, Laura-Jean Watson, center, tells how she and her husband Jeff found homeschooling, 4-H, and God's wisdom profound in helping each daughter develop her unique personality. Many in the farming community are familiar with Jessica, second from right, who is Lebanon Fair Queen and the Pennsylvania Runner-Up Fair Queen, but her sisters, Joyce, left, Jennifer, and Jacqueline, right, also excel in leadership and talent. Turn to page B2 for the Watson family story. Photo by Lou Ann Good.