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Farm And Home Scholarships Offer Tickets To Success

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — A scholarship for Adriana Galijasevic is a passport to a dream come true from a journey begun while growing up in war-torn Bosnia.

To survive the horrors of killing, of hearing that her parents were dead, and of being responsible for a brother seven years younger, Adriana poured herself into her studies and art to ease the pain.

"Only when I was drawing could I escape from everything," the 18-year-old said of her traumatic life between the ages of 12 to 14 years.

With Adriana, seven other students also received \$1,400 each from the Lancaster County Farm and Home Foundation, Tuesday evening. While their stories aren't as dramatic as Adriana's, the scholarships are a testimony to their achievements and a ticket to a successful career.

College costs are out of reach for many students. Reports reveal that costs have risen 91 percent for private colleges and 82 percent for public institutions within the past 10 years.

Many promising students cannot fulfill their potential without scholarships. Traditionally, the Farm and Home scholarships are among the first to be awarded, and the recipients of these are eagerly awaiting notification of additional awards.

Students selected for the Farm and Home Foundation Scholarships, which from its installment has awarded 376 students totalling \$297,300, must be county high school seniors pursuing a degree in an ag-related or consumer science field.

After graduation from Hempfield High School, Adriana plans to study fashion design at Drexel University. "When I was little, I cut out paper dolls and dresses, then I

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In the final week of her reign as Berks County Dairy Princess Erica Davis, 18, is shown with Macey, a 6-year-old Excellent-92-2E registered Holstein. With Erica are her parents, Luther and Teresa Davis, and siblings, Gregory, 15; Aaron, 9; and Jillian, 5. Turn to page B6 to read about Davlew Farm, where cows, dairy promotion, and children thrive. Photo by Lou Ann Good

Mild Winter, Wet Spring Challenges Crop Protection Strategies

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.) — Weeks of wet weather and inches of excessive rainfall following a very mild winter have combined to challenge pest control strategies of farmers throughout the southeastern and southcentral

regions of Pennsylvania. Some weeds began appearing in fields in January during a very mild spell, and a warm and wet late winter and early spring helped boost the growth of weeds and insects beyond normal.

This is not conjecture. Growing degree days are a mea-

sure of duration of temperatures above a threshold for plant or insect growth.

A formula is used to calculate the degree days, but essentially, the numbers reflect the amount of growing energy available to a species over time.

For most agricultural uses, 50

degrees is considered the threshold. When temperatures get above 50 degrees, start counting. (Of course ground temperatures and sunlight also are key to plant growth and are incorporated in growing degree day keeping.)

On Monday, Lebanon County Extension Agronomy Agent

Delbert Voight reported that, as of May 17, the Lebanon area accumulated about 523 heat units, compared to 354 last year.

That difference translates into about 16 days accumulation ahead of schedule.

From his perspective, delays in

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Chester Conservation District Celebrates 50th

Conservation Farmer Of Year Understands Season's Challenges

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
ELVERSON (Chester Co.) — An early flush of weeds, brought

on by early unseasonably warm weather, plenty of rain, and a hot spring, can create severe challenges for crop growers.

Late last week, Bill Beam, who manages about 1,700 acres of cropland within a 15-mile stretch from Elverson to Downingtown,

was out with the 60-foot spray wagon, spreading Roundup.

The list of troublesome, noxious weeds can make the "weeds of dishonor" on any crop producer's list: Canada thistle, dandelions, wild onion, and foxtail and other grasses. Beam decided to bring out the spray boom and take care of the problem first — all the while hoping it would stay dry long enough to finish corn and soybean planting.

Beam noted that most land he manages is under lease — he owns only a share of the home farm. The Chester County farmer uses mostly no-till methods to ensure soil retention. On one farm owned by Jim and Bill Moore, Elverson, and leased by Beam, contours were designed by the old Soil Conservation Service (now called the Natural Resources Conservation Service) and have been no-tilled for the past four years.

Beam ignores the Canada thistle making a strong push in the field that is being rotated into Roundup Ready soybeans. Beam is anxious to complete planting of 70 acres of beans.

Weeds aren't the only chal-

lenge. There is the problem of deer damage — and deer certainly enjoy soybeans. And to top it off, geese that inhabit the Marsh Creek area, which borders farmland south of Elverson, pull out the plants and eat the wheat and small grains.

Despite all these challenges, Beam has directed a strong no-till program that takes more management, that involves a lot more anti-

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Office Closed Memorial Day

Our office will be closed Monday, May 25, to observe Memorial Day, but will open again for business at 8 a.m. Tuesday. If you have a news story or an advertising message to be placed in this special June Dairy Month issue, other than Monday, contact our office any day, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Our phone number is (717) 626-1164. Our fax is (717) 733-6058.



Bill Beam has directed a strong no-till program on conserved land. He was honored Thursday evening with the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award at a special ceremony honoring those who have served the district. Photo by Andy Andrews