



State Farm-City Event Shares Agricultural Adventure

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Almost 3,000 elementary school students and an unknown number of adults on Wednesday participated in the second state Department of Agriculture's (PDA) Farm-City Day event at the PDA headquarters building in Harrisburg.

City Days for years, the PDA initiated its first on-site Farm-City Day event last year. Based on its success, the event was continued this year. Last year about 500 youth attended the event, which involves many of the PDA staff. For those unfamiliar with Farm-City Day activities, they are held as a means for agriculturally employed and non-agriculturally employed people to get to know and appreciate each other better. The goal has been that simple,

though the mission has sometimes been difficult to maintain, given the fact that fewer than 2 percent of the population is directly involved with production farming, and many of the current generation of people are two to three generations removed from farming as a means for direct sustenance. As the general labor employment of the population of the United States changed dramatically from farm, mining and timbering work to factory, manufacturing and service work, the culture of the new communities based on the new types of employment developed a void of first-hand knowledge of farming, land issues, and rural and environmental concerns. Even more significantly, a philosophical chasm seemed to develop between city and rural people, that continues today. The chasm seems to concern the nature of the relationship of human beings to plants and animals.

The theme was the concept of state Secretary of Agriculture Samuel E. Hayes Jr., who has been a long-time advocate of promoting education and agriculture. "This year's edition of PDA's Farm City Day was another great success," Hayes said. "Agriculture has a wonderful story to be told and there are many lessons for our young students to learn." Free candy apples, and a few mild midway type rides were several of the not-strictly agricultural activities included. However, the event is designed to avoid boring the youth with dry, force-fed lectures about the importance of agriculture, but rather to provide an atmosphere, similar to a

county fair (that they may later want to visit), of fun and adventure. The PDA building sits along Cameron Street across from the state Farm Show Complex, where PDA vehicle and some guest parking was temporarily relocated for the event. The parking lot of the PDA building, the front steps, landing, lobby, first floor and basement, side yard, and an area behind one of the greenhouses were used for the event. On the steps of the PDA building, 13-year-old country singing entertainer Crystal Marie, dressed in white Stetson and cowgirl attire,

(Turn to Page A11)

Beetles Prove An Effective Weapon In Controlling Flies

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
ELIZABETHTOWN (Lancaster Co.) — Farmers may have new weapons for the war on disease-carrying flies in layer and broiler houses. Those weapons could surprise you. In the past, researchers knew about the effects of using the "hister beetle" (known scientifically as *Carcinops Pumilio*) to live in poultry house manure and eat fly eggs and larvae. But research by Penn State and independent companies are closing in on ways to mass-produce beetles that each can eat up to 150 fly eggs a day. Penn State has been studying the hister beetle for many years, according to Charlie Pitts, Penn State professor of entomology. Pitts said the beetle is an insect that is native to the country, which,

according to the literature, was transmitted through "cow piles" from Buffalo herds to cow herds. The beetle, transmitted across the U.S., eventually ended up from the cow piles into poultry houses. A company operated by Roni Clark and Leon Beiler, C & M Farm Services in Elizabethtown, manages a hister program to tackle the fly problem. The natural fly parasites include wasps, beneficial nematodes, and the carcinops beetle. Working under a USDA Small Business Innovation Research Grant, IPM Laboratories, Locke, N.Y., has come up with a way to mass-produce the beetles. C & M Farm Services has an exclusive contract to sell the beetles in three states, according to Carol Glenister, president of IPM Laboratories. Measuring less than 1/8 inch in length, each adult beetle can

(Turn to Page A27)

Quality Haymaking In Foraging Around



To get good hay, you have to feed it. "Fertilizer pays. It doesn't cost you," said Joel Steigman, who farms 250 acres at two separate sites below Broad Mountain near Halifax. Steigman won first place for his alfalfa-timothy grass at the 1998 Hay Show during Ag Progress Jays. He is profiled in the special section this issue, *Foraging Around*. Photo by Andy Andrews

Set Clocks Back Tonight

Time has come to change from Daylight Saving Time back to Eastern Standard Time. We "fall back" one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday morning, Oct. 25. To get that extra hour of sleep, turn the clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night. Animal feeding and milking schedules also need to be adjusted accordingly.

Shirk's Dairy Farm Management Basics Column On LF Website

The "Dairy Farm Management Course" column by Glenn A. Shirk, Lancaster County extension agent, is now up to Article 20, "Heat Stress," on page A35. Readers with access to the Internet can also read the previous articles in the series, of which several more will be written for the newspaper. Check out the columns on our website at www.farming@lancasterfarming.com



NAZARETH (Northampton Co.) — Crisp, clear weather allowed a lot of shelled corn harvesting to take place the past week. Bill Sandt, farm manager of Windhaven Farms in Nazareth, takes a break from harvesting corn off of Penn Dixie Road. The 10-acre field was yielding in the range of 30-150 bushels per acre. Photo by Andy Andrews