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Lancaster Farming

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Historic Extremes Define 1998

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — Goodbye 1998.

It has been a year filled with unexpected meteorological, political and business events that continue to challenge logic, reason and belief.

Review and Opinion

In other words, it has been a year full of historic extreme.

All the while, the events of the year were tempered with constant reminders of the complexity and

degree of interdependency between human beings and their real environment.

The real environment is the total sum of everything that surrounds and affects humans, including other humans.

The environment is not just that portion characterized so often by special-interest groups as consisting of splendid landscapes, wildlife, pristine watersheds and uninhabited mountains and plains.

From unusual space missions, to meteor showers and comets, to the global destabilization of economies and the continued consolidation of businesses and coopera-

tives, it has been a full year.

Make no mistake, this and the preceding years are years of historic importance.

Just as the turbulence of the years immediately prior and after the signing and ratifying of the

United States Constitution only marked the beginning of a new direction for people, it is apparent that the events of this current period of years will be looked back upon as years during which much was discussed, reviewed, revised,

experimented with, and reconsidered by people around the world as they sought a new way of living with each other.

All of this activity has been hap-

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Penn State's Ag College Dean Reviews First 18 Months

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) - "More than anything in Pennsylvania agriculture you find the attitude that we are all in this together," said Robert Steele, dean, Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences. "We were trying for years to accomplish this kind of partnership in Wisconsin."

Steele was speaking in a personal interview late last month about the progress he has seen at Penn State since he became dean

of the College of Agricultural Sciences 18 months ago. He came here from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he was associate dean for research, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and executive director of the University of Wisconsin's Ag Experiment Station.

"In Pennsylvania they really stick together," Steele said. "For example the Dairy Futures Stakeholders. This has grown so much over the last three years, where

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Some girls play with dolls, but Regina, 6, and Rebecca Grover, 4, find cows in their playhouse more to their liking. While Butch and Donna Grover milk 200 Holsteins in Bernardson, Mass., the sisters pamper the Jersey cows. "The cows will do anything for the girls," Butch said of the curious Jerseys who went into the doll house to look around then calmly came back outside. "It's not much different farming up here than in Lancaster County," said Butch. "Once farming is in your blood, you don't want to do anything else." Butch's grandfather started farming with seven milking cows and three horses. Over the years, the farm has been expanded to include 750 acres, 200 milking cows, and 150 young stock. The family sent this photo as Christmas greetings to *Lancaster Farming*. We thought our readers would enjoy it also.

Farmers Share Bond No Matter Where They Live

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
BERNARDSON, Mass. — "Farming up here is not much different than in Pennsylvania," said Philip Grover, better known to New Englanders as "Butch."

"I like to milk cows. I like to raise crops, and I like to watch animals grow. I figure everyone who farms on his own has his own opinions about the way things should be done. That's why we're farming—because we like to be independent," Butch said.

The Massachusetts farm near the border of Vermont was purchased in 1912 by Butch's grandfather.

"That first winter, grandfather milked seven cows and had three horses. Now my brother Paul and I formed a corporation and milk 200 cows, have about 150 head of young stock, and 750 acres," Butch said.

Most of the expansion was completed in recent years. The farm had been increased to about 30 cows in 1925. It stayed about the same size until Butch and his brother finished school in 1963. Then the barn size was increased to milk 60 cows.

About nine years later, the brothers added a 100-cow freestall barn to the stanchion barn. A few years later, they built a milking parlor and added another freestall barn for 75 cows. The stanchion barn was converted into a heifer barn.

Over the years, the Grovers have purchased the land from 13 farms in the area that were sold. They left the owners have the houses. Most of the land is adjoining. "The farthest we travel is five

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Tom Marsh Jr. relies on the expertise of M & M Zook Farm, Gap, to provide Farm Show stock. Marsh and his father, Tom Sr., look at two dozen feeder pigs before choosing four or five that look like potential champions. Read more about Tom as he prepares for Farm Show on page A22. Photo by Andy Andrews



From all of us at Lancaster Farming

Special Pages, Advertising/News Deadlines For Farm Show Issue

The Keystone Farm Show is scheduled for this week in York (we have a section of advertising messages for you), and the Pennsylvania Farm Show will run the following week. The first up-to-date Pennsylvania Farm Show exhibitor lists, meeting and judging schedules, and Farm Show complex layout, are found in this issue too. Next week is our annual Pennsylvania Farm Show issue with features of farmers going to exhibit, advertising messages, schedules and building layouts. We, like

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