

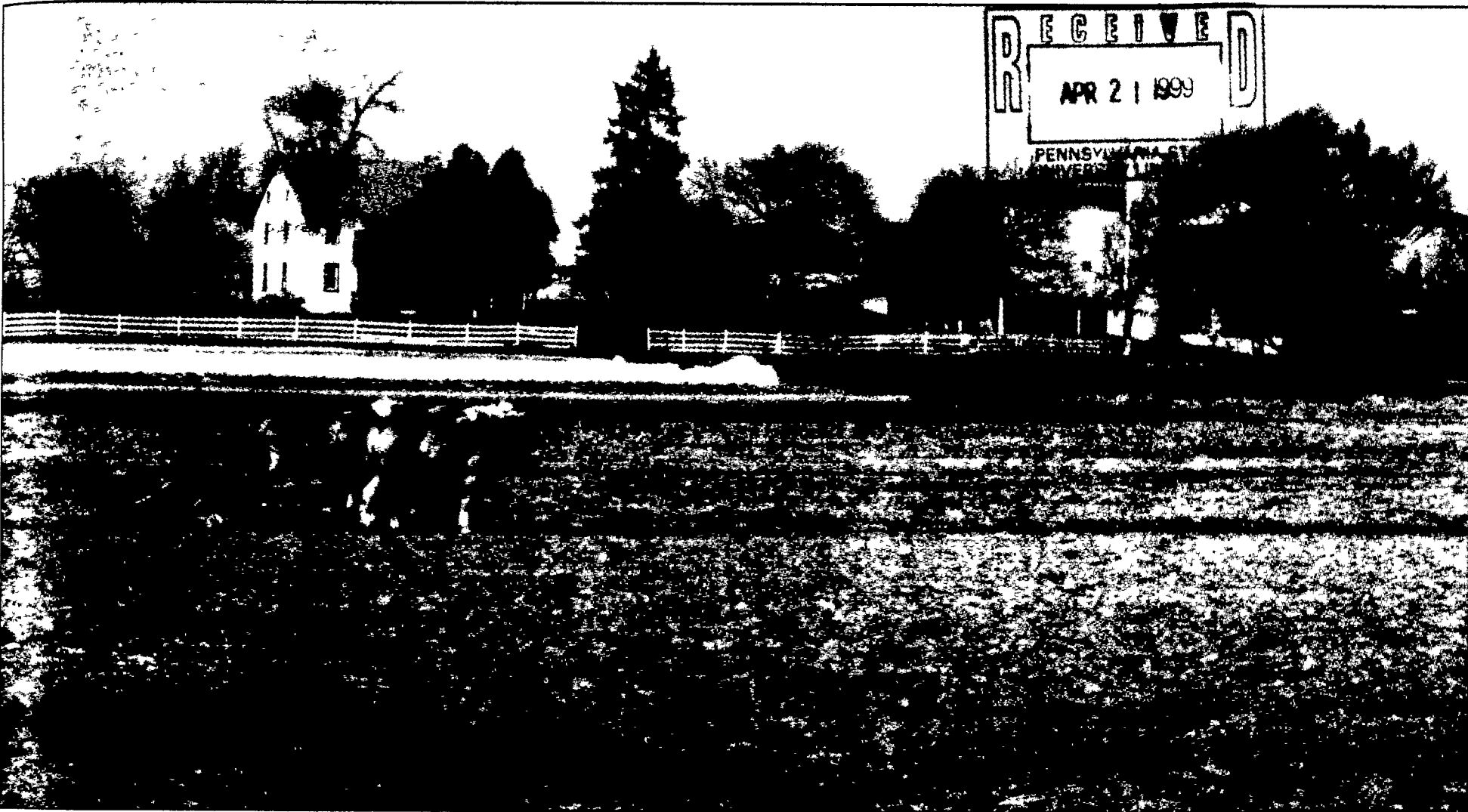
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Lancaster Farming

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The beautiful browns of dormant soil and last year's decomposing stalks and stubbles contrasted with the early spring yellow-greens of pushing tree leaves gives all true agriculturalists hope for the beginning of a new planting season. The Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service reported this week that Pennsylvania farmers intend to plant more acres of wheat, oats and hay in 1999. But they expect to plant fewer acres of barley, corn, soybeans, and tobacco. These expectations are right in line with the national figures. For example, farmers in the U.S. intend to plant 78.2 million acres of corn, down two percent from both the last two years. This would be the lowest number of planted corn acres since 1995. Nationwide, soybean pro-

jections are at 73.1 million acres. If realized, this would be the largest number of acres on record. Of special note to Pennsylvania tobacco farmers, reports show that southern Maryland-type tobacco acreage will be 27 percent less, and Pennsylvania seedleaf type tobacco will be down 31 percent from last year. This likely reflects the problems farmers have had in selling their crop for the last two years.

The photo captures a team farmer working his land Tuesday afternoon along North Shirk Road, east of Farmersville in Lancaster County. *Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor*

PMMB To Set Temporary Over-Order Premium Effective May

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB) is to post a Class I over-order premium by April 15, although it may not be the final over-order premium.

The amount of the premium to be set is not yet known, but given the fact that the lowest premium suggested during two days of hear-

ings this week was about \$3 per hundredweight, it may well be within that range.

The current over-order premium is 50-cents per hundredweight.

The PMMB is a three-person oversight board of an agency that audits and licenses dairy sales

activities within the state with the mission to protect the interests of consumers and milk producers.

The agency is to ensure that milk handlers are adequately bonded to cover their purchases of milk, and that producers are paid according to how their milk was

used and that appropriate premiums are made.

Further, the PMMB has the authority to establish minimum retail and wholesale prices of milk, and establish over-order premiums on the sale of beverage milk produced, processed and sold, all within state boundaries.

The over-order premium applies only to beverage milk, considered a Class I use under federal

definitions.

The purpose for such a premium is to ensure the in-state availability of locally produced and processed beverage milk, which is the most perishable dairy product.

Since 1988, the PMMB has set an over-order premium, ranging from 30 cents to more than a \$1 per hundred pounds of milk.

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Caution Must Follow Antibiotic Use, On And Off Farm

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — Human health advocates have been occupied with coming up with the answer to a belabored issue: what factors are making disease-causing bacteria develop resistance to standard forms of treatment?

Is the cause an overprescribed use of antibiotics in patients? Or, like many arguments put forward

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Teresa Pomraning was named the outstanding young cooperater of the Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers at the cooperative's annual meeting. Teresa with her husband Myron and family operate My-T Farm, at Delta, York County, Pennsylvania. See Story, page A30.

Checkoff, Labeling, Price Reporting Topics Of Joint Beef Council Meeting

CAROLYN N. MOYER
Bradford Co. Correspondent
WYALUSING (Bradford Co.) — Beef cattle producers, dairy farmers, veal growers, and beef industry representatives from New York and Pennsylvania met at Taylor Packing company recently for a tour of the facilities and to hear the latest updates on issues facing those in the meat industry.

High on the agenda were discussions on the call for a referendum on the dollar per head checkoff, mandatory price reporting by packers, country of origin labeling for meats, and food safety.

Contrasting views were presented by Ken Taylor Jr., president of the American Meat Institute (AMI) and George Hall, president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), specifically on the country of origin labeling and mandatory price reporting.

"The diversity of this industry is remarkable," said Hall. "There are many parts of this industry. All of us have our own vested interest. I think one of the things that we've got to do in this industry is that we've got to work together so that

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