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Flooding, Soil Erosion In The Distant Past At Troutman Farm



The Troutmans — including Franklin, Franklin's son, Luke, and Franklin's dad, Ralph — were recognized recently with the 1998 Outstanding Conservation Farmer Award from the Berks County Conservation District. Photo by Andy Andrews

ANDY ANDREWS
 Lancaster Farming Staff
 WOMELSDORF (Berks Co.)
 — Soil maps don't always tell you everything you need to know about a farm and what can be done on it to save soil.

Nothing in the books faithfully describes one Berks conservation farm.

Nowhere does it say that the Retland Farm, owned by Franklin Troutman, sometimes has to endure a troublesome northwest wind that can chill in the spring, throw dirt around in the fall, and can sometimes move the soil all by itself.

And nothing can describe the frustration the Troutmans felt one

day in June 1993 when five inches of rain fell in one day, creating havoc with terraces and sabotaging newly constructed waterways.

The rainwater "beat up the waterways, flooded them and came over the banks, and washed out the waterway that year," said Franklin.

Two years ago, the Troutmans decided to "write their own book," in a manner of speaking, on managing soil on the farm, constructing long storage terraces on the back side and running underground pipes to carry the water away.

Since then, huge rainfall hasn't been something to make them lose

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Is There A Packing House In Future For Regional Growers?

ANDY ANDREWS
 Lancaster Farming Staff
 LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)
 — Vegetable growers may someday have an alternative way to market their vegetables.

For many growers, local auctions have been the way to sell produce. For large-scale growers, or for times when the auctions are

literally flooded with product in the heart of the season, packing houses — such as the ones to market Jersey Fresh tomatoes — could be an alternative that could also be a blessing for regional auctions.

Proposals for the packing house and information about what pack-

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Pa. Milk Marketing Board Sets First-Ever Floating Premium

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
 Lancaster Farming Staff
 HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB) on Thursday set its first-ever floating over-order Class I premium.

The PMMB is an agency of the state that has oversight of the dairy

industry with the mission to ensure that consumers and farmers are protected for fairness in their dealings with milk.

The PMMB audits and licenses dairy businesses and holds bonds of forfeiture to cover farmer losses, should a business that received milk declare bankruptcy, for

example. It also has the authority to set minimum retail, wholesale and processor prices, and set a mandatory bonus called an "over-order premium" to be paid to Pennsylvania farmers whose milk gets processed in Pennsylvania, and then is

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Royalty named at the Pennsylvania Jersey Convention are from left, Heather Yurkanin, alternate Pennsylvania Jersey queen; Crystal Rassau, 1999 Pennsylvania Jersey queen; and Corissa Coolbaugh, alternate Pennsylvania Jersey queen. See story page A20. Photo by Carolyn Moyer, Bradford Co. correspondent.

Issue Highlights New Methods, Laneways

This issue of *Lancaster Farming* includes *Foraging Around*, a special quarterly section dedicated to the forage grower and grazer, with information supplied by the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council (PFGC). Included is a feature on the Kress Simpson farm, attempting to adopt innovative methods of farming, especially grazing. Also included are news about how to construct laneways, the new PFGC president's message, and information from the recent state PFGC conference.



"Llama Lady" Flo Harnish of Log Cabin Llamas, Ephrata, is one of 40 exhibitors at the Eastern Llama and Alpaca Festival to be held at the Lebanon Expo Center off Rt. 72 on April 24-25. More information about the upcoming show, which offers educational and fun activities for the whole family, is on page B9. Photo by Lou Ann Good.