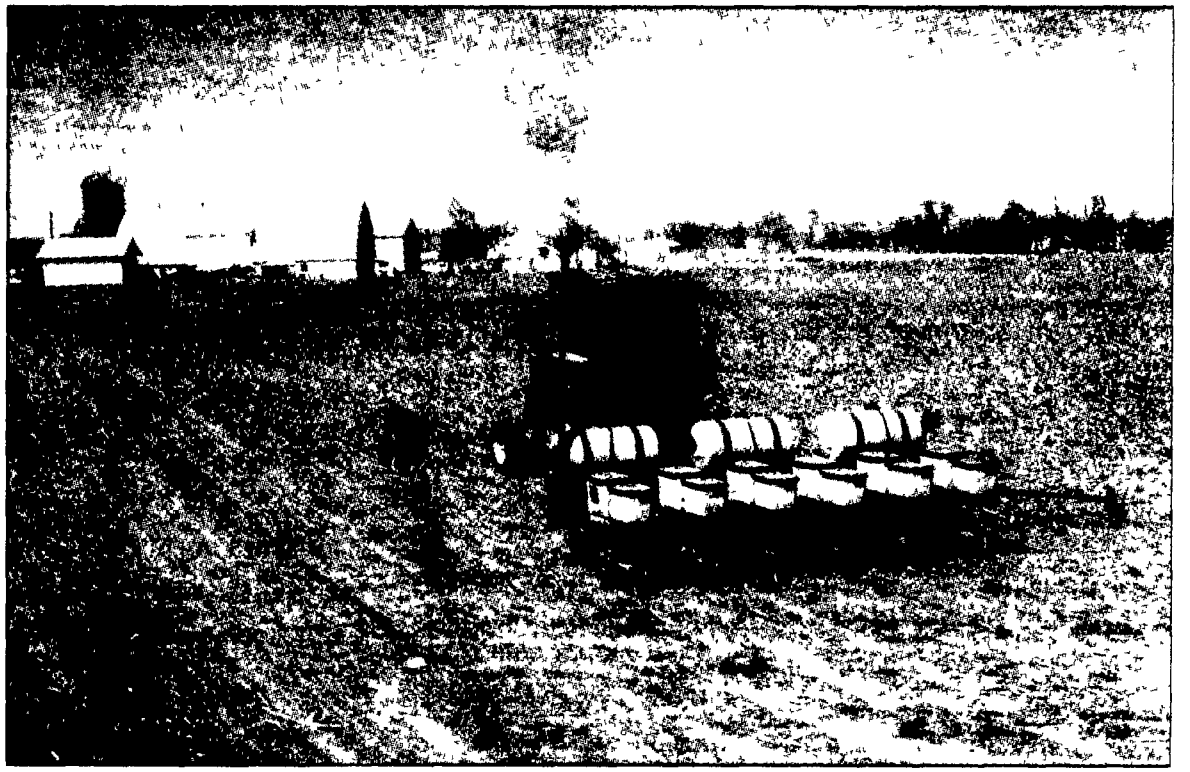


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Signs Of Spring In The Country

In our lead photographs this week, on the left, Janie Martin of Reinholds in Lancaster County shows a favorite mare, Lucky, and newborn foal, Keeper, to the camera Monday afternoon. These miniature horses are part of the 20 head on Ray and Janie Martin's 23-acre Pheasant Lane Farm. The Martins raise the miniature horses as a hobby and expect to have at least seven babies by the time you read this. On the right, corn planting was underway Tuesday afternoon along Route 501 at Locust St. just north of Scheafferstown, in Lebanon County. A grandfather and grandson team was working the land and running the corn planter to get a good start on the 250 to 300 acres of corn they need to plant this spring. Photos by Everett Newswanger, editor.

N.E. Compact Commission Sets Supply Management Hearing

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
MONTPELIER, Vt. — The Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact Commission has announced a May 5 hearing to gather testimony on a proposal to establish a supply management program. The hearing is to be held 9 a.m. at the Wayfarer Inn in Bedford, New Hampshire. Though the notice of the hearing stated that pre-filed testimony was preferred, the deadline for submitting pre-filed testimony has passed. The hearing was announced April 12 by Compact officials, though notification was not widespread. The deadline for pre-filed testimony was April 26. The hearing was brought to the attention of *Lancaster Farming* after the deadline passed. However, those who wish to offer comments do not have to appear in person, but can submit sworn and notarized testimony, written comments and exhibits to:

Northeast Dairy Compact Commission, 34 Barre Street, Suite 2, Montpelier, Vermont, 05602. The deadline for submitting written comments is 5 p.m., May 19. Copies of testimony sent to the commission via facsimile also will be accepted by until 5 p.m., May 19, but the original — sworn and notarized — must follow soon afterward in regular mail. The fact that the Compact Commission has called for a hearing on a proposed amendment to its over-order price regulation "to establish a supply management program" is not a reflection on an actual need for a supply management program within the six New England states Compact, according to Kenneth Becker, executive director of the Compact Commission. According to Becker, regulations require the commission to consider such a proposal. "The Compact itself has a clause that requires the Commission to

take such action as necessary ... to ensure the over-order price does not create an incentive to generate additional supplies of milk," Becker said this week, citing Compact wording. "So, it's required by law that the Commission pay attention to this whole matter of milk supplies." But he did say the limited history of the Compact does show

some need for the Commission to understand what is happening in the Compact region and what effect the Compact is having on dairy pricing in the Compact and surrounding region. To fulfill its obligation to consider any factors which could encourage additional production of milk in the Compact, in the spring of 1998 the Commission

held a series of meetings in the New England states, at which more than 500 farmers participated, Becker said. There had been an increase in production, but farmer testimony at the time was that the cause was better weather than the previous winter, and cheaper feed compared to the previous year's very high (Turn to Page A31)

Reformatting Lancaster Farming, A Photo Essay

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Early last year Penn State University Libraries' preservation department discovered its heavily used backfile of the *Lancaster Farming* was in such poor physical condition that it was seriously endangered and at risk

of being lost. Since *Lancaster Farming* is the most sought publication in the libraries' archives, reformatting to microfilm was the only viable solution to combat the destruction and save the newspaper. (Turn to Page A24)



At the Miller Plant Farm, from left, Diane Miller, Phyllis Higginbotham, and Dave Miller prepare plants for the retail market. Turn to page B2 to read about the Millers' growing business that roots back to the Great Depression. Photo by Joyce Bupp.