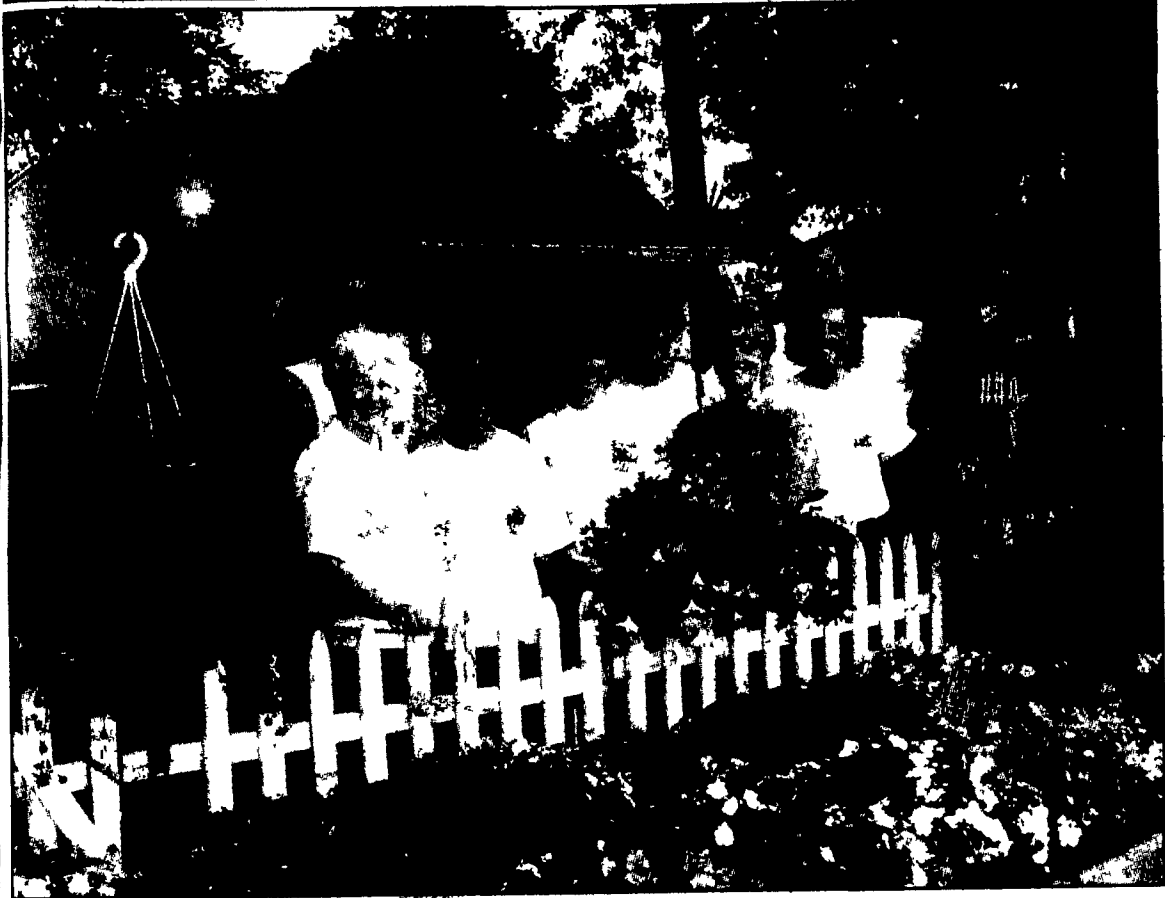


Lancaster Farming

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All of the Rothenberger extended family enjoy working with the public — it's what their farm is all about. Merrywood, which includes a farm market and a retail flower and vegetable business, is what some would call an "entertainment farm." From left, Maynard, Betty Jean, Mark, Jewel, Scott, Mary, Carol, Linda, and Donna. At far right is Steve Gulgley, farm general manager. See story page A22. Photo by Andy Andrews

Pa. House Approves N.E. Dairy Compact Legislation 183-18

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
 Lancaster Farming Staff
 HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The state House of Representatives on Wednesday approved, 183-18, an amended version of proposed legislation that would authorize Pennsylvania to join the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact, should the U.S. Congress reauthorize the Compact and the addition of Mid-Atlantic states.

dealt with deciding who should represent Pennsylvania to the Compact Commission.

On Thursday Tom Charles, a spokesperson in Gov. Ridge's press office, said, "The Ridge Administration continues to work with House and Senate leaders on the specific wording for Pennsylvania to join the Compact. We're hopeful the General Assembly will send a satisfactory bill to the governor shortly."

The House action on Senate Bill 365 (S.B. 365) came quickly this week.

Charles said he could not say what specific measures were being sought by the Administration and Gov. Ridge.

It followed on the heels of a press release made June 4 by Gov. Tom Ridge that stated his support of the state Legislature's efforts to enable Pennsylvania to join the Compact, with conditions.

Despite the House approval, and S.B. 365 apparently on track to being approved, there are House and Senate agricultural leaders who continue to hold "serious" reservations about the wisdom of pursuing Compact control of the dairy industry.

Up until the Friday news release, the Ridge Administration had not been politically involved.

The main theme of concern is that small-herd, family run dairy (Turn to Page A36)

The conditions were not made specific, but according to various sources close to the issue, they

Growers Learn Importance Of Proper Conditions For Thinning, Protecting Trees From Deer Damage, At Orchard Tour

ANDY ANDREWS
 Lancaster Farming Staff
 BOYERTOWN (Berks Co.) — Thinning and protecting apple trees from the ravages of disease and deer, ensuring good fruit dur-

ing a season full of unknowns, presents great challenges to orchard managers.

About 85 growers and agri-industry representatives found exactly how to use thinners proper-

ly and took home insight into protecting trees from deer and insect damage recently during the Penn State-sponsored Southeast Pennsylvania Fruit Growers Twilight Tour at Keim Orchards in Boyertown.

For thinners to work on apple trees, you need "a lot of real cloudy weather," said Dr. George Greene, Penn State Fruit Research and Extension Center, Biglerville. "You need cloudy weather three days in a row, and warm nights —

then trees can be more easy to thin. Some will drop without thinner at all."

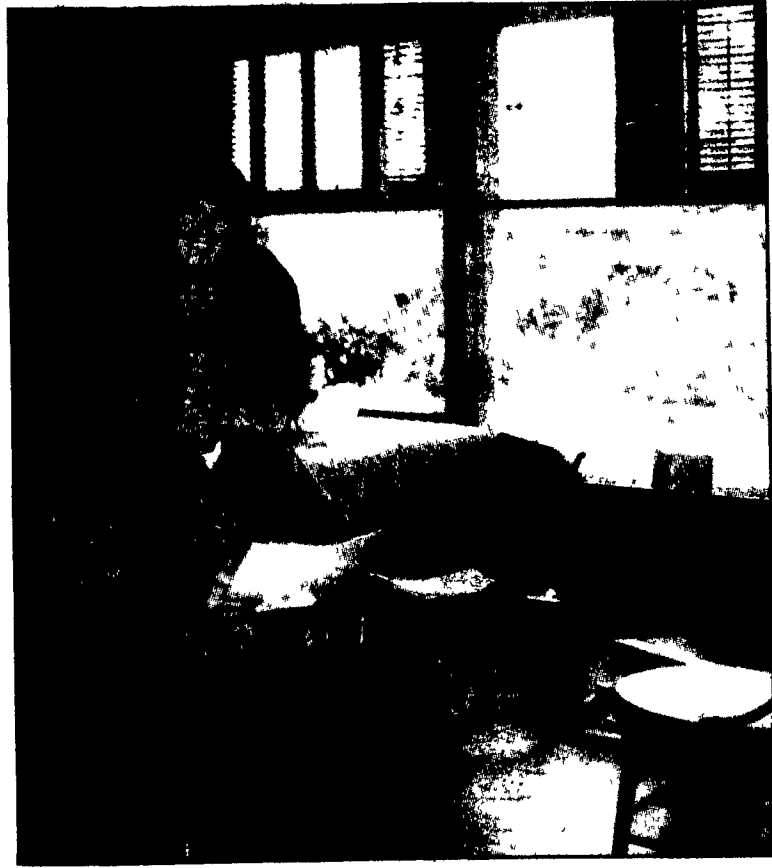
In a demonstration area, Greene said a commercial variety of thinner was demonstrated on several rows of 12-year-old Law Rome apple trees. Spray was applied mostly on May 21 this year at different rates. Five different treatments were applied, compared to one check.

At 10 parts per million (ppm),

the thinner didn't take enough apples off, leaving some viable fruit in clusters. In areas where a higher dose, 15 ppm, there were "plenty of clusters here — too many," Greene said. At the low rate of 5 ppm, there was "still not enough thinning," said Greene. In another sampling at 10 ppm, "I still see some clusters with three or more," he told the tour group.

Using thinner can be both a sci-

(Turn to Page A31)



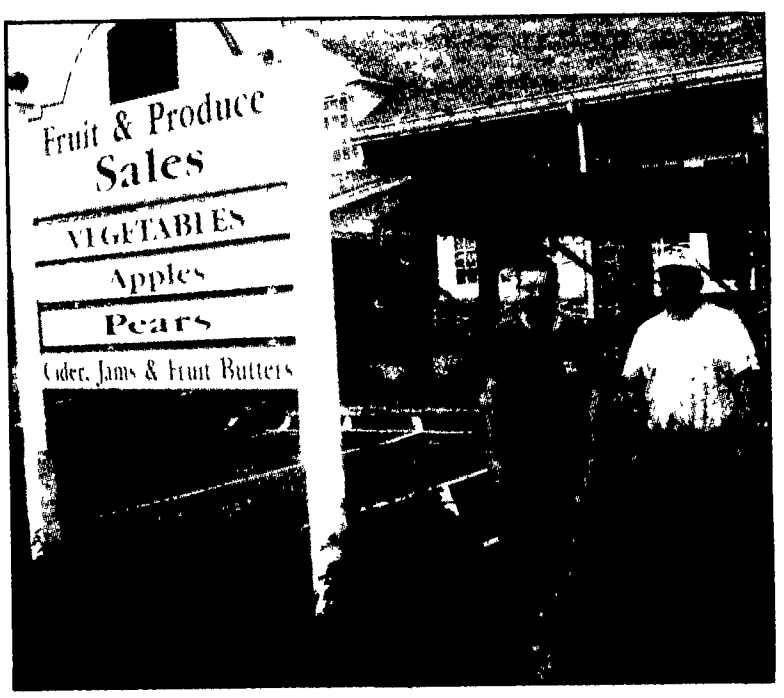
Sam and Bev Minor combine dairy industry leadership with running a restaurant, store and catering business on their Washington County dairy farm. On page B2, read about the Minors, their family, and longwall mining that threatens to destroy their 200-year-old farmhouse and barn. Photo by Lou Ann Good.

Day Brothers First Sibling DJM Finalists

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
 Lancaster Farming Staff
 SHIPPENSBURG (Cumberland Co.) — For the first time in the history of the Holstein USA breed organization, a pair of brothers are national finalists competing for the title of distinguished junior member.

David and Matthew Day, sons of Curtis and Ann Day of Tri-Day Holsteins in rural Shippensburg, are both in the running for the national honor, with the winner to be announced at the Holstein USA convention, June 19-22, in Boise Idaho.

Both youth are to be flown to the Boise convention courtesy of the (Turn to Page A28)



Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown contains one of the country's last "institution" orchards. John Andrews, left, and Tad Kuntz, orchard supervisor, outside the farm market. The orchard is profiled in this issue's *Grower & Marketer* pages starting on C1. Photo by Andy Andrews