

*Life Sci.*

# Lancaster Farming

SEP 24 1999

Vol. 44 No. 46

Four Sections

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, September 18, 1999

\$31.00 Per Year

60¢ Per Copy

## Gov. Ridge Announces \$5.3 Million In Interim Drought Assistance For Pennsylvania's Farmers

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Gov. Tom Ridge has offered a \$5.3 million interim plan to help Pennsylvania's farmers recover from the drought.

"Help is on the way for Pennsylvania's farmers," Gov. Ridge said. "We'll reimburse our farmers to help buy the hay they

need to recover from the devastating drought. If they have to go far to get that hay, we'll help them pay to bring it home. We'll transport in donated hay from the Midwest. And we'll eliminate the fees that many farmers have to pay the state. These interim steps will give our farmers a helping hand while we

await help from Washington.

"Pennsylvanians have sent millions of their hard-earned federal tax dollars to fund disaster grants for the states across the nation. Now, unfortunately, we need that same help for our farmers. I urge all Pennsylvanians to join me in calling on Congress to do the right thing

for Pennsylvania's farmers."

Gov. Ridge signed a letter this week with 11 other Northeastern governors, urging Congress to enact grants for drought-stricken farmers.

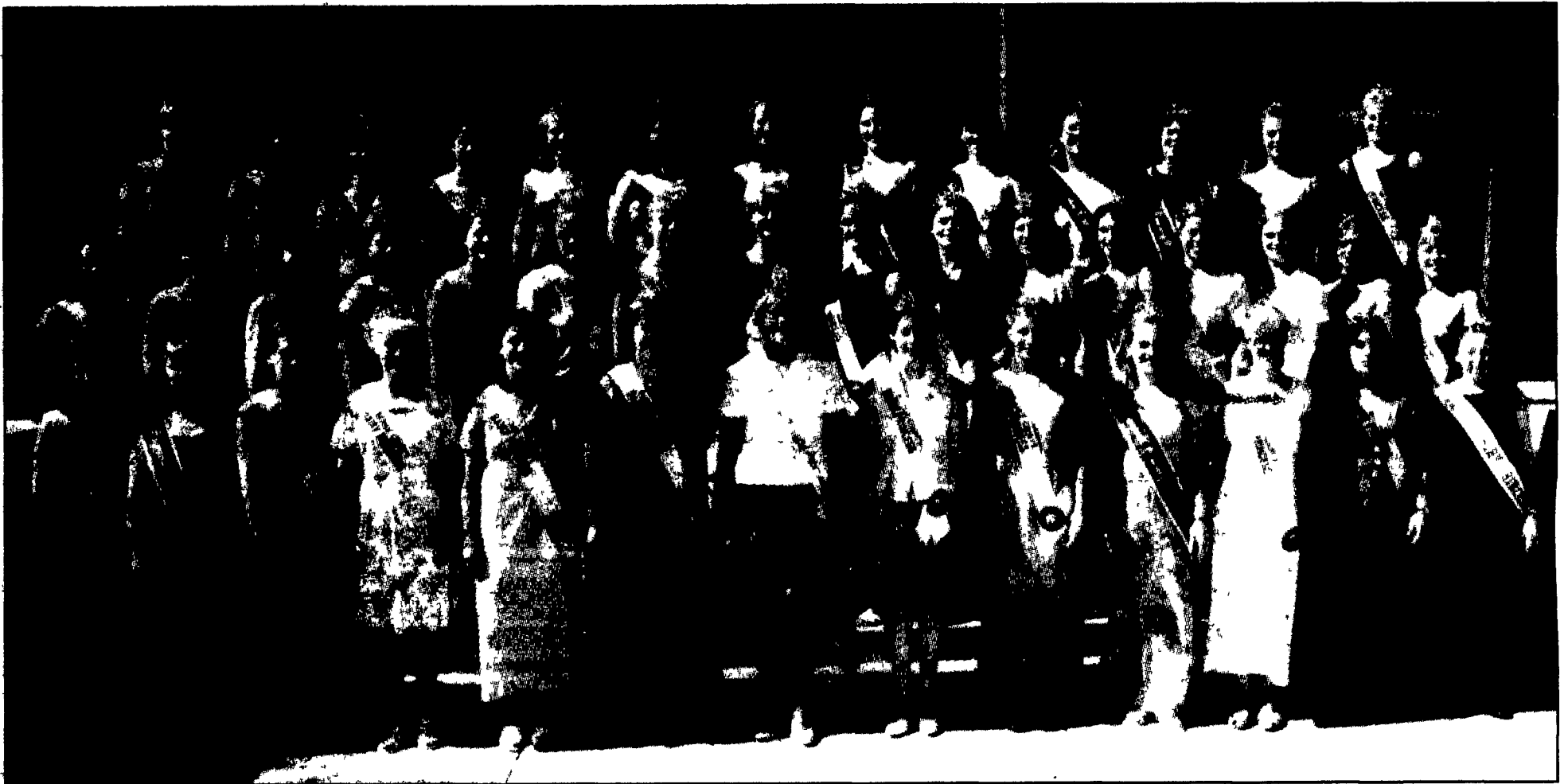
"We will begin to implement this interim assistance while we await congressional action," Gov. Ridge said. "When Congress

acts, we will reassess to determine if additional state assistance is necessary."

Gov. Ridge's interim plan:

- Creates a rebate plan to reimburse Pennsylvania farmers for hay purchases and long-distance hay transportation

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The 43rd Annual Pennsylvania Dairy Princess coronation is scheduled tonight at the Sheraton Inn, Harrisburg at 6:30 p.m. These county dairy princesses will compete for the state crown. From left, front are Stacey Agnew, Crawford; Christina Steyer, Allegany-Garrett, Md.; Stacy McCaslin, Jefferson; Michelle McMichael, Berks; Rebecca Kilgore, York; Lauren Daubert, Clinton; Jennifer Dotterer, PA Dairy Princess; Amanda Grossman, Chester; Susanne Thomas, Somerset; Jeena Rinehart, Carroll Co., Md.; Stephanie Long, Tioga; Jennifer McWilliams, SUN; and Tamara Marsich, Delaware dairy princess. Second row, from left are Karen Hubbard, Susquehanna; Ashley Carper, Huntingdon; Janelle Hearn, Lycoming; Melissa Olson, Indiana; Melinda Martin, Franklin; Kathryn

Hanna, Mercer; Lori Connelly, Centre; Jackie Schriener, Bradford; Amy Liggett, Beaver-Lawrence; Jane Ansell, Fayette; Amanda Reed, Clearfield; Lindsay Potts, Va. Dairy Princess; Lisa Haas, Perry; Heather Hoover, Blair; Katherine Little, Warren; and Amanda Gilkinson, Erie. Back row, from left are Andrea Hood, Frederick Co., Maryland Alternate; Noreen Rouse, Sullivan; Trisha Malone, South Central Md.; Jimmie Chyle, Wayne; Amanda Martin, Lebanon; Lindsay Baker, Delaware Alternate; Elisa Ranck, Lancaster; Laura Kramer, Upperchesapeake, Md.; Angela Adams, Wyoming-Lackawanna; Erin Shank, Washington Co., Md.; Sadah Bentz, Frederick Co., Md.; Gayle Stine, Mifflin; and Amber Ripley, Washington.

## The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show Opens

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Beginning today, the 36th Annual Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show will be bustling with activity with antiques displays, a dairy pageant tonight, and other activities as this granddaddy of all dairy cattle shows opens for business here at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex.

The All-Dairy Antiques and Collectibles Show is two years old and will be housed in the Dairy Activities Center. The show will open today at noon. More than 20 exhibitors from as far away as Michigan and Minnesota will be displaying items ranging from milk bottles, cream separators, butter churns,

and ice cream paraphernalia to small farm implements and more. This all-dairy antique and collectibles show will be open Saturday through Thursday under the supervision of Dr. Darwin G. Braund of the Pasto Museum at Penn State University.

The Country Craft Market will be open again this year Sunday through Thursday. Vendors will be selling cow wearables, floral creations, painted items, and more. Bonnie Mohr, a dairy farmer turned painter, will have a display of her latest rural American art prints and notecards.

Sunday, Sept. 19 will be a full day for visitors and exhibitors.

The Country Craft Market will open at noon in the Dairy Activities Center. The Youth Showmanship Contest allows young dairy showman to test their showmanship skills.

In the evening, the Pennsylvania Junior Guernsey Breeders Meeting and Social, Pennsylvania Ayrshire Youth Meeting and Social, and Pennsylvania Junior Jersey Meeting will update young breeders. At 7 p.m. the Careers and Opportunities Night ice cream social will bring youth and college representatives together. Later, the Junior Dairy Show Olympics will fill the Small Arena.

Monday, Sept. 20, is Youth

Day. The Pennsylvania Junior Dairy Show participants will tread the tanbark in the Large Arena. This show features district show winners, allowing the cream of the crop to compete for first-place honors. The Invitational Youth Dairy Cattle Judging Contest draws teams from as far away as California, Wisconsin, and Florida to compete in this collegiate-level competition.

On Tuesday, Sept. 21, the national and regional breed shows commence. The All-American Ayrshire Show will start at 9 a.m., officiated by Brian Garrison of Tiffin, Ohio. The Pennsylvania Fall Championship Holstein Show

officiated by Norman Nabholtz at 9 a.m. will be conducted as well. The Junior Dairy Management Contest will test the skills and knowledge of about 100 young dairy enthusiasts on Tuesday morning. The Pennsylvania 4-H and FFA Dairy Judging Forum will also start this morning at 10 a.m. Later in the day, the All-American Milking Shorthorn Show will commence in the Large Arena, officiated by Mary Shank Creek.

On Wednesday, Sept. 22, the Large Arena of the Farm Show Complex will be bustling with cattle as the National Guernsey Show, officiated by Murray

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