## **★ A LANCASTER FARMING EXCLUSIVE**

## The Official Publication For The PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC.

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DEADLINE FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1999



ANDY ANDREWS Lancaster Farming Staff PARADISE (Lancaster Co)

- Sometimes corn has a lot more uses than you can imagine

You know the standard uses

— corn flakes, beverage
sweetener, alternative combustion fuel, and others

But there are more uses than you might have read about and that includes, of all things, entertainment farming

Why not make a show out of the front five acres? That's exactly what Cherry Crest Farm, operated by Jack and Donna Coleman in Paradise, did This year marked the fourth time in a row that the Coleman's put up the "World's Largest Attended Maze," in which every year a new "theme" for the com maze is selected

The maze, taking up five acres, was planted in the shape of the Keystone State itself, complete with the four cities making up the corners (Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Erie, and Scranton-Wilkes Barre) In the center is the shape of the Liberty Bell, along with ribbons along the corn row "paths" of the maze painted a different color to represent a section of the maze (yellow for the Liberty Bell, green for the state outline, red the Paradise Star, and white the stars of affer major

The "Land of Liberty" theme proved especially attractive for area tourists. Each day during

the season the maze averaged about 1,200-1,500 visitors Last year about 50,000 visitors showed up to tour the maze, in the shape of Noah's Ark. The first year the maze was laid out in the shape of a locomotive and the second year, a horse and burger.

buggy
At the top of the maze, north
of the "gameboard," was an
America flag made up of
14,000 petunias According to
Coleman, the one third acre
flag was planted the third week
of May this year, contracted
with Good Harvest, Strasburg

The corn mare itself, which opened July 2, was planted with Proneer 32K62, a Bi hybrid, full season variety. The corn was planted May 5 in 30-inch was pridded out and, when the corn was gridded out and, when the corn was less than eight inches tall, a crew worked a hoe to shape. A few aerial photographs were taken before the final shape-could be finished.

final shape could be finished. The drought emergency this year had an effect on some of the tourists, but luckily, according to Coleman, enough rain had fallen. In mid-July, two irrigations were needed to keep the corn stalks from turning brown and brittle.

The maze employs about 15, mostly youth, from around the region The Colemans also care for 60 cows on their dairy, in addition to 50,000 broilers under contract with Tyson

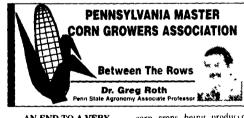
The maze is open Sept 3 through Sept 18 Friday and (Turn to Page 12)



The maze included an extensive petting zoo, mini-mazes, hay rides, food, refreshments, gift shop, and weekly special events. This year the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association and Penn State Extension Service also had a corn products stand at the maze. From left, Jack Coleman and right, Del Voight, Lebanon County extension agent, at the stand. Photo by Andy Andrews



Jeff Stoltzfus, Eastern Lancaster County (ELANCO) School District Adult Farmer Program adviser, center, spoke to about 60 farmer and agri-industry representatives in June during the third annual ELANCO Adult Farmer Program Spring Meeting at the Eugene Martin Farm south of New Holland. See story page 3 Photo by Andy Andrews



## AN END TO A VERY LONG YEAR

I'm sure the 1999 growing season had as many days and hours as previous seasons but for many of us it sure seemed like a longer than normal year

For many Mother Nature threw a few curveballs that

corn crops being produced around the state
Fortunately, this kind of

Fortunately, this kind of season is a rare occurrence that we hope does not reoccur for the remainder of your careers

I thought I might be good to revisit a few of the issues we ran into this summer and

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