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Lancaster Farming

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Beef Awards Highlighted

GAIL STROCK
Mifflin Co. Correspondent

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — From the barn to the banquet hall, cattlemen and women from all over Pennsylvania converged on Celebration Hall in State College last week to do just that — celebrate. The banquet kicked off the Pennsylvania Beef Exposition March 30-April 2 at Penn State's Ag Arena.

Awards highlighted the 26th annual Cattlemen's Banquet during a program emceed by Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association (PCA) president Bill McCoy of Lancaster. The banquet program featured a legislative update by representative Sheila Miller, PCA awards, Cattlemen's Queen coronation, and scholarship winners.

PCA director Larry Bullis presented the PCA awards. The Seedstock Producer Award went to Dennis Stockdale of Stockdale Farms, Dayton, for his accomplishments with Angus and Hereford national champion bulls and success in the export market.

Commercial Cattlemen of the Year went to Kevin Diehl and his wife, Debbie, of Fairfield. They own Springbrook Farms. Jim Eisenhower and his wife, Brenda, of Cedar Hill Farms, accepted the Cattle Feeder of the Year Award. They use homegrown feeds to keep their Wellsville, York County, F healthy. Bob Weikert of Weikert Livestock, Inc., in Fairview, Adams County, accepted the Industry Service Award on behalf

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The Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association awarded scholarships at its annual meeting last week to Travis Reid, William Grant Coleman, and Kevin Harvatine. Photo by Gail Strock, Mifflin County correspondent.

First-Place Soybean Grower Blessed With Good Season

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff

WATSON TOWN (Northumberland Co.) — Regarding his first-place award in the recent Pennsylvania Soybean Yield Contest, Gary Truckenmiller sums it up best. "We were blessed with a good growing season," he said. Despite the state's catastrophic

drought, "it was our best year overall," he said.

Truckenmiller achieved a yield of 73.34 bushels per acre using a Roundup Ready variety of bean, Pioneer 93B53, a mid group 3.

Truckenmiller manages about 450 acres of tillable land, including 105 acres in soybeans. Truckenmiller uses the RR

variety simply for the effective weed control. Chickweed and pokeweed provide real challenges to a good yield.

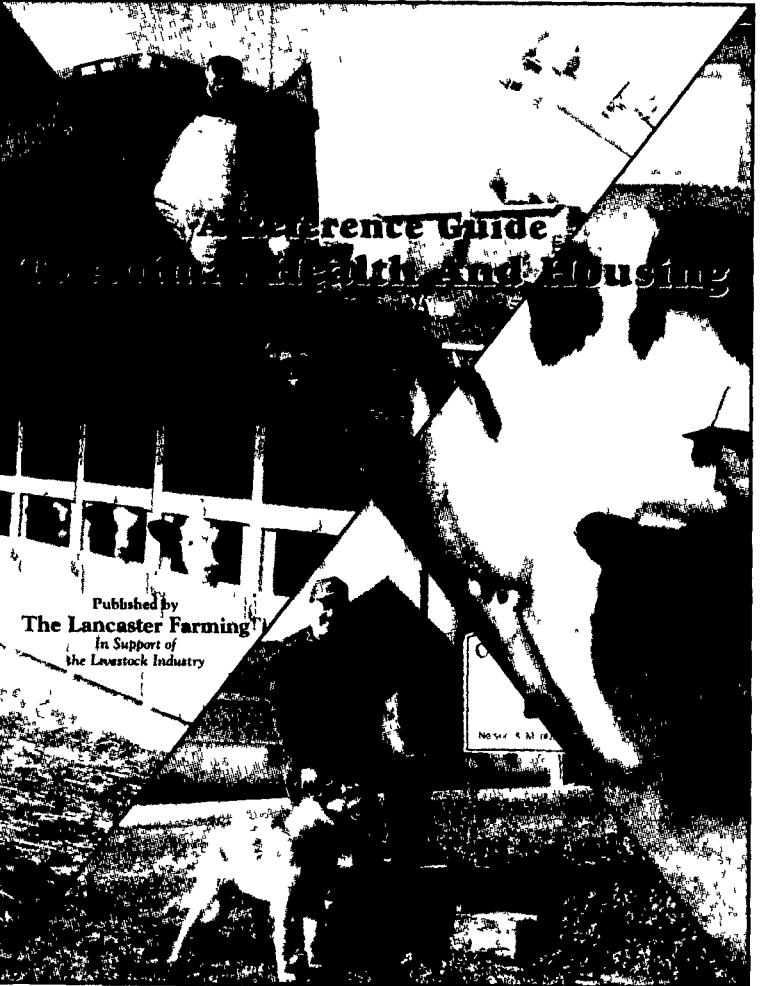
Soybean fields on Truckenmiller's dairy follow different rotations. Some are rotated corn to soybeans and some corn to alfalfa.

"We no-till almost everything," he said, including some processed vegetable crops from corn and soybeans. In all, about 55 acres of the farm are devoted to peas and string beans grown for Furman Foods.

applied before the crop canopies. Some weeds such as chickweed and pokeweed were "really troublesome," Trucken-

miller said, until the Truckenmillers began to use no-till. Important to Truckenmiller is improving standability and

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Health And Housing Booklet

The 88-page booklet published by Lancaster Farming entitled *Animal Health And Housing* comes to you as an insert in this issue. You will find topics from mastitis prevention to ventilation considerations. Many professional articles as well as on-farm features are included in this special edition. Look for it.



Gary Truckenmiller won first place in the recent Pennsylvania Soybean Yield Contest. "We were blessed with a good growing season," he said. Despite the state's catastrophic drought, he said, "it was our best year overall." Gary stands with wife Kelly in the field with the award-winning crop.

Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders Aim To One-Source Risk Management Information

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Editor

At a meeting of the Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders economic education task force, Monday, agreement was reached to move forward on the project to develop an integrated compilation of management and marketing information so dairy farmers have a faster and more accurate source of information. The group has been meeting to help improve the economics of dairy farming in Pennsylvania by bringing together all segments of the industry around the table for a united effort.

According to Alan Bair, the present efforts to encourage and stimulate development of individual farm dairy business plans has been successful. Working with dairy producers or want-to-be dairy producers has resulted in 11 finished projects with dairymen since the program began just over a year ago. Thirteen dairy plans are waiting completion, and 23 more applications are in hand. Funding has increased including a new grant from PDA. Other financial supporters include banks and insurance companies. The Dairymen's Association, Penn-

sylvania Dairy Stakeholders, and Penn State. The idea is to help dairy farmers to develop budgets and plans so they have workable goals for the future.

Dave Wolfgang reported on the dairy production veterinarian certificate program that aims to help practitioners look at total herd care, from environment to nutrition, in addition to the sick cow. From polls taken from farmers, the veterinarian is the most respected professional who comes to the farm. Therefore, the veterinarian has a great opportunity to help with con-

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