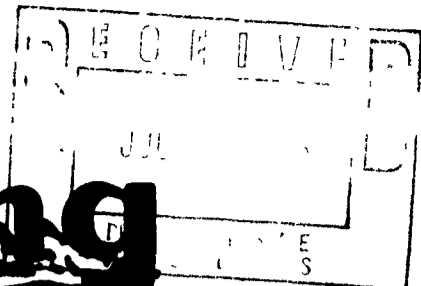


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# Lancaster Farming



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## Tree Growers See New Soil Prep Methods

**EVERETT NEWSWANGER**  
*Editor*  
POTTSTOWN (Chester Co.) - In the scenic forested hills east of Elverson, nearly 100 tree farmers, agribusiness representatives, and extension educators gathered Tuesday afternoon for the Southeast Regional Christmas Tree Growers meeting.

Westlake Tree Farms along North Hill Camp Road and the department of horticulture at Penn State represented by George Perry, Jr., multi-county extension horticulture agent based in Schuylkill County, hosted the meeting. Credits needed to update grower's pesticide license were given.

The program featured some of the new practices Westlake has incorporated into their operation to better prepare the soil for tree planting. "If the soil is not prepared correctly, if it is not right, you may as well not put the trees in the ground," Gary Westlake owner said. "Since we deal with a long-term crop we need to prepare the soil to accommodate this. We like to start with a clean field. And you need to deal with areas that lack percolation even on the top of the hill."

For Westlake a new "spader" machine imported from Holland is the answer. The demonstration of the machine showed how it is used as both a primary and a secondary vehicle to prepare the soil. The 16-inch deep soil preparation action allows for a one-pass process. In addition, the tree farm is experimenting with buckwheat planted in summer and spaded down with the new machine in the fall. The green growth expected to be 2-feet tall at the time it is incorporated into the soil will help prevent soil erosion and add the herbicidal characteristic buckwheat is reported to have.

"We have been farming a horticultural crop with agronomic methods," Westlake said. "Augers have been used to dig

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### Horse Progress Days Photo Report

Horse Progress Days, a takeoff on Ag Progress Days each summer at Rockspring, was conducted last week at Kinzers in Lancaster County. This event, which draws international visitors, is proof of the strong revival of small farm enterprises where old-fashioned ways to farm have become new. See a photo essay of the event on pages A20-21. Photos by Everett Newswanger, editor



At the Christmas tree growers educational meeting, Dr. Larry Kuhns, Penn State professor, ornamental horticulture, demonstrates how to calibrate a sprayer. The event was held at the Westlake Tree Farm in Chester County. Photo by Everett Newswanger, editor

## 'Beef Made Easy' Brings Convenience To The Case For Today's Consumers

**MICHELLE RANCK**  
*Lancaster Farming Staff*  
MIDDLETOWN (Dauphin Co.) — It happens every day. A customer wheels the shopping cart to the meat case, looks bleakly at the sea of red before them, attempts to decipher the difference between cuts and how to cook them, and finally heads off to find frozen pizza for dinner.

Fortunately for today's consumers, however, the new "Beef Made Easy" program will make meat buying and preparing more straightforward.

The program rearranges the meat case by cooking method. Each section includes color-coded labels for steaks for grilling, marinating, sauteing, braising, stewing, and stir frying, besides pot roasts, oven

roasts, and ground beef. Corresponding rail strips, case dividers, and color-coded pictures help to separate the cuts. The peel-off label also features cook-

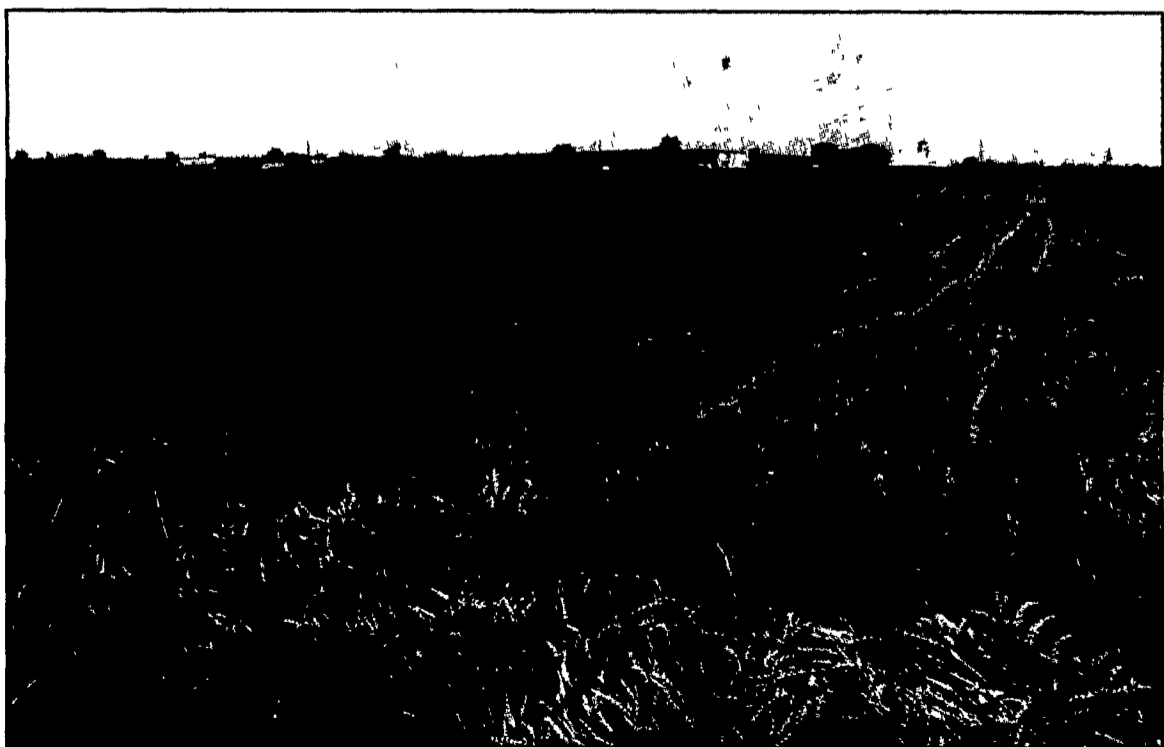
ing and freezing instructions. In addition customers can find both recipes and colorful brochures which explain the program in some meat cases.

"The program is meant to help to build the category of convenience beef," said Carrie Bomgardner, Pa. Beef Council

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Beekeeping has brought sweet success to Renee Blatt, who reigns as Pennsylvania Honey Queen and owns six hives. Turn to page B2 to read more about this enterprising teen-ager who is involved in many facets of agriculture on her family's Lebanon County farm. Photo by Lou Ann Good



### Lancaster County Harvest Scene

The extra rainfall this year has the countryside looking growthy. According the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service, pastures are growing well and providing good feed for the graziers. But the same weather made haymaking difficult to get it into the barn without getting wet. The corn is growing well, although some low-lying areas are overly moist. Barley harvest is well under way. The wheat heads are bending down with grain. Here, this Lancaster County farmer provides a scenic view with shocks of wheat waiting for thrashing day. The photo was taken by Everett Newswanger, editor, this week along Hollander Road near Zeitenriech Church.