

Life Sci

Lancaster Farming

Vol. 45 No. 44

Four Sections

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, September 2, 2000

\$32.00 Per Year

60¢ Per Copy



Growing produce to sell means money in the bank for Beth Kreider, 16. But this Lebanon County Fair Queen said that operating her own business also has a downside. "Every time I go to the mall and see something I want, I think of all the boxes of tomatoes I needed to sell to earn enough money to buy it," she said. "Having my own business has really taught me to grasp the concept and value of money." To read more about Beth, her growing business, and the beef and poultry operation of her parents, Harold and Barb Kreider, turn to page B12. Photo by Lou Ann Good

Latest Results On Robotic Milkers: The European Reality

DR. MARK VARNER
Professor, Extension
Dairy Scientist,
University of Maryland

Editor's Note: Dr. Mark Varner, professor, extension dairy scientist at the University of Maryland was invited to make a presentation at a parallel conference and thus attended the International Symposium on Robotic Milking for self education. Dr. Varner says he learned a lot and has provided *Lancaster Farming* with this summary of what is happening in Europe with robotic automated milking systems.

NETHERLANDS - Robotic automated milking systems (AMS) have been promised by futurists for some time, and it now appears that at least for Europe, they are no longer a promise. Instead, they are a reality. Their growing and now widespread use on private dairy farms for the last several years confirms that for at least Europe, AMS are an important part of the future. The most exciting developments in Europe are related to what farmers and their advisors are learning about practical AMS use.

Robotic automated milking

systems have been used by private Dutch dairy farmers since 1992. Over 500 AMS units are now on farms, with most in the Netherlands and almost all of the rest elsewhere in Europe. An international symposium was held in Lelystad, Netherlands on 18-19 August 2000 to discuss these results. Over 250 people from 20 countries heard 25 presentations, viewed over 30 scientific poster presentations and visited private dairy farms using the five brands of AMS being marketed.

Many of the technical engineering problems, especially those critical challenges concerning attachment of teat cups, have been resolved over the last several years. The equipment works reliably, but now new problems have developed with the widespread adoption of the AMS by private farmers.

MILK QUALITY

Milk quality parameters were found by various research groups to be significantly worse in herds using AMS. Sometimes, though infrequently, the levels exceeded milk marketing organization penalty limits. Of course, that sometimes happens with dairy producers using conventi-

(Turn to Page A34)

Agriculture Insights

Brent Landis

Agriculture Services Coordinator



Phone: (717) 397-3531 ext. 62
E-mail: bllandis@lcccl.com



A Valuable Resource For Agricultural Law

As our agricultural industry continues to grow and intensify in Pennsylvania, many legal issues are beginning to take precedence. In an effort to provide a free source of educational programs, information, and materials focused on agricultural law to the ag-community, Penn State's Agricultural Law Research and Education Center was formed in 1997. The Center is a creation from the merger of the Dickinson School of Law with The Pennsylvania State University.

The Center is not only an excellent resource for farmers, but also for professionals, government officials and extension faculty and staff. The Cooperative Extension network works closely with the Center to provide many educational sources on law and regulatory topics to farmers and agribusiness organizations. Lawyers, accountants,

financial planners and many other professionals can use the Center as a key resource for information that may affect their clients. Continuing education -

(Turn to Page A33)

Office Closed Labor Day

On Labor Day, Sept. 4, *Lancaster Farming* office is closed. The office will reopen Tuesday, Sept. 5.

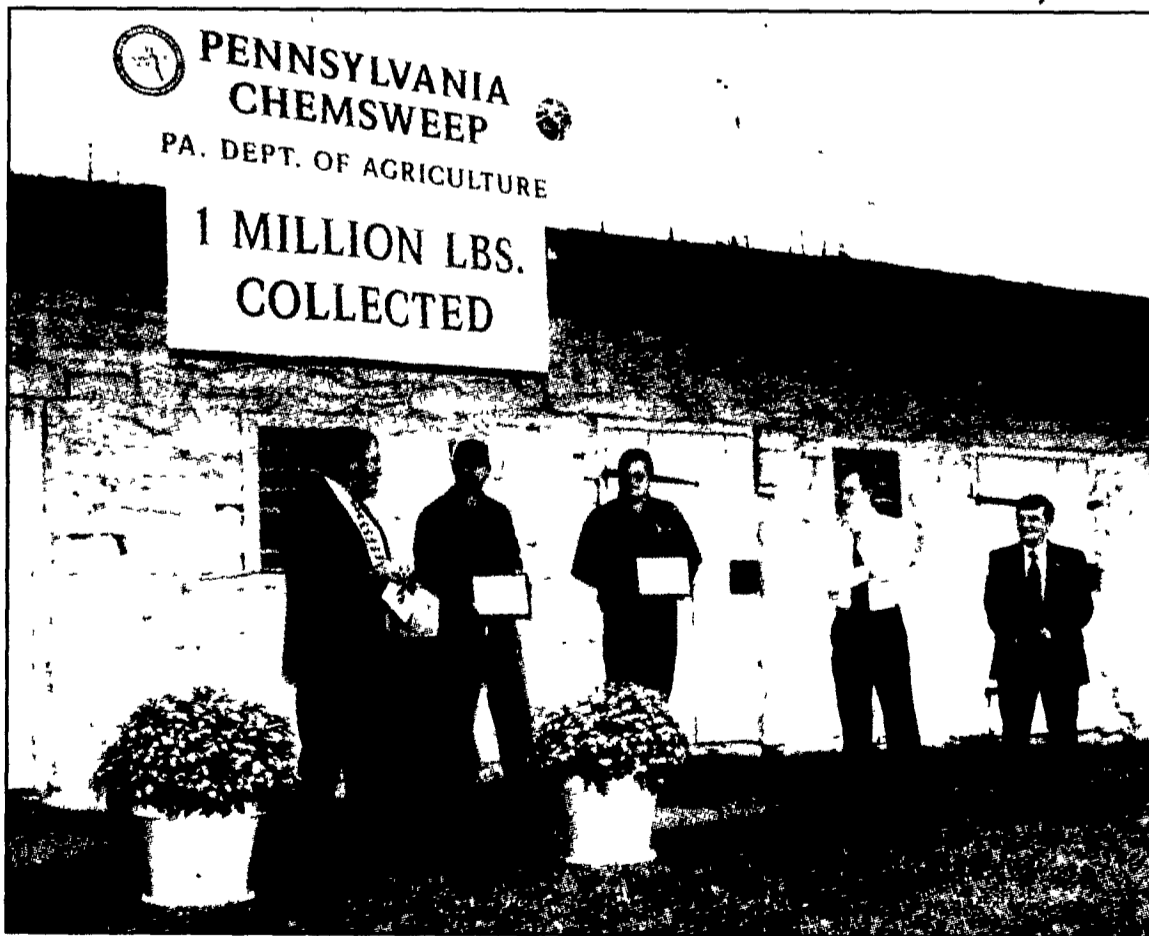
For the Sept. 9 issue, there are some deadline changes:

Public Sale and Mailbox ads, noon, Friday, Sept. 1.

Classified, Section D ads — 5 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 6.

Classified, Section C, Farm Equipment ads, 9 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 6.

General News — noon, Thursday, Sept. 7.



A ceremony to recognize the collection of one million pounds of waste pesticides was conducted at the Johnson's Nursery and Landscape, Inc. Halifax, late last week. Collections have been completed in all 67 Pennsylvania counties and 4,000 individuals participated in the program. The Chemsweep Program is making a significant contribution to Pennsylvania's ground and surface water quality goals.

The cost of the program is supported by pesticide product registration, not by tax revenues. Pennsylvania is one of the first states in the nation to complete a statewide collection and is recognized as a national leader.

The program is designed to provide a means to dispose of canceled, suspended, or unwanted pesticide products. In the photo, from left, Phil Pitzer, PDA bureau of plant industry; Hal Fairbank, MSE Environmental engineer; Greg Johnson, deputy secretary of agriculture; Chris Herr, PDA bureau of plant industry director; and Lyle Forer.

Handwritten initials or signature.