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Lancaster Farming

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Somerset County Fair Celebrates 100 Years

GAY BROWNLEE
Somerset Co. Correspondent
MEYERSDALE (Somerset Co.) — During August 19-26 when the centennial Somerset County Fair was held in Meyersdale, nothing could have been more evident than this fair retains a strong loyalty to the many aspects of agriculture. Running the gamut from

great-grandparents to newborn infants and any age between, members of the same family support the annual festivities. After 100 years, the fair is still a vibrant link, simultaneously, connecting four and five generations. Since agriculture is smack dab in the middle of their lives as it has been for decades, cele-

brating the fair was right. The high quality of animals that show judges often comment about is consistent here. They are impressed by the dedication and hard work done by 4-H and FFA members, their parents, and leaders. Byron Glessner, president of the fair board of directors, since 1989 says the Junior Livestock Sale tells the story when the price paid per pound is averaged out. He said the 1999 sale was the biggest ever and surpassed the \$200,000 mark. The 2000 sale was higher than \$170,000. Another director commented Somerset County Fair is like a "family get-together." On Thursday, Aug. 24, the Decker Barn was a beehive of activity with square dancing, music, games, and memorabilia never heard of by computer-literate youths. Nevertheless, the kids tackled games of skill their senior counterparts used to play. "You can't buy wooden pickup sticks anymore. They are all plastic today," said a disappointed Lynn Shaffer, a director who coordinated the games. She found Jacks, however, a skill game once loved by young girls. Shaffer also brought jump ropes, hula hoops, and displayed innumerable photographs from past fairs. Eva Compton, Salisbury, looks to be at least 75 or 80, but instead she turned 100 earlier



Congressman Joe Pitts greets farm representatives on his annual farm tour in Lancaster and Chester counties. In the photo taken in Lancaster County are, from left, John Schwartz, county agent; Don Ranck, local Farm Bureau board; Brent Landis, Lancaster Chamber Farm representative; and Congressman Pitts. See story page A36.



Pennsylvania Honey Queen Renee Blatt reminds people that September is National Honey Month. Turn to page B2 and subsequent pages to learn more about honey's versatility — from cooking to skin care.

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Tobacco Grower Survey Will Arrive By Mail

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — In order for the Pennsylvania Tobacco Marketing Association (PTMA) to do its job, a survey will be mailed soon to all

members — in fact, all tobacco growers, according to Dennis Hess of the association. The survey, which should soon be arriving in growers' mailboxes, will not only ask questions of what tobacco is

being grown and how much, but will provide a way for the association to address marketing and develop directions for the association to take. The questions are various. (Turn to Page A39)

PENNSTATE
College of Agricultural Sciences
From the Department of Dairy and Animal Science

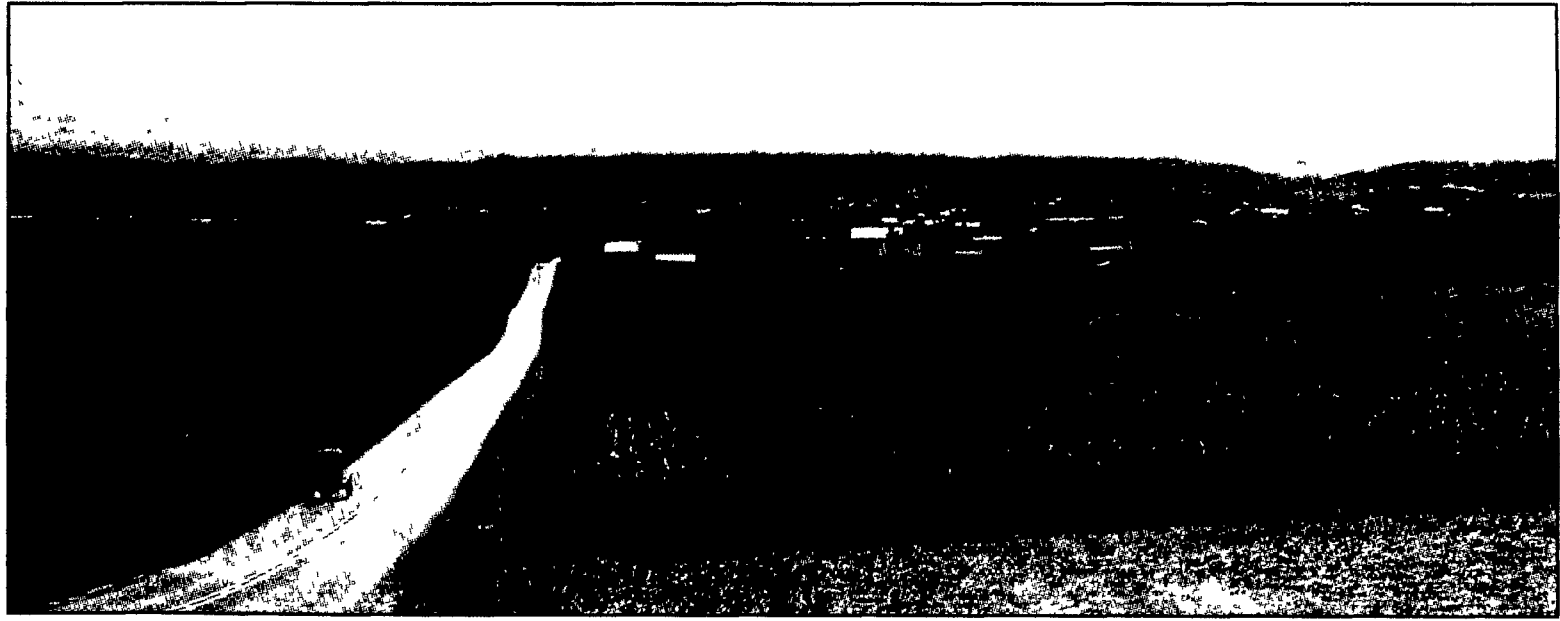
The "Cost" of Doing Research Part I — The University

TERRY D. ETHERTON
Penn State University
Department Head

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) - The Pennsylvania State University is a world-renowned research University. One indicator of research excellence is expenditures for research. Based on fiscal year 1998 data, Penn State ranked 13th among all private and public universities in the United States for funds spent for research. The University spent approximately \$393,000,000 on research during 1999, of this \$66,000,000 was spent in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

You may ask what all of this money is spent on and where does it come from? The diversity of research activities within the University is remarkable. A sampling of research being con-

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What a wonderful week for fieldwork. According to the Pennsylvania Agriculture Statistical Service farmers were busy harvesting fruits, vegetables, and tobacco. In addition, they were making hay, filling silos, and getting ready for fall seeding. The condition of both corn and soybeans remained very good throughout the state. But pasture conditions declined slightly due to cool weather. Peach harvest is ending well ahead of normal and the apple harvest is also ahead of the average. Vegetable growers expe-

rienced good yields for late maturing crops and were beginning to harvest cooler weather crops. In the photo, the open country view provides a peaceful setting in Lancaster County with the camera looking south on Meeting House Road, north of White Horse. Only the clip-clop of the horse's hooves and the running carriage wheels on the roadbed break the still early afternoon quiet.

Photo by Everett Newswanger, editor

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