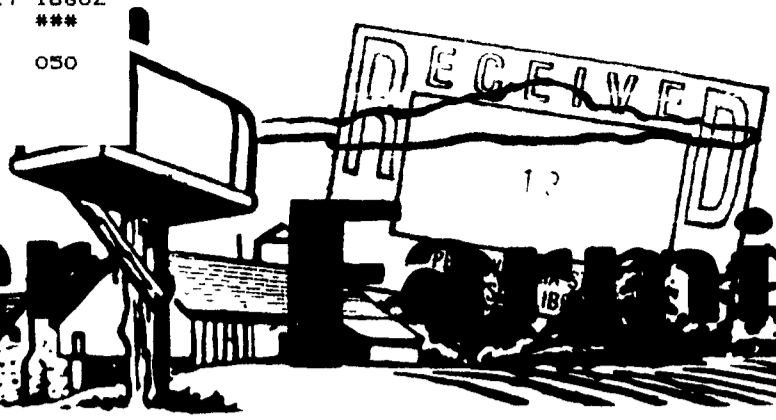


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# Lancaster Farming



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## Lebanon City Mayor Parker Gets Down On The Farm

EVERETT NEWSWANGER  
Editor

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) —The telephone rings. Soon, Lebanon City Mayor Jackie Parker and her 14-year-old son Max head out into the night to experience the birth of a soon-to-arrive calf.

This was all part of the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce Farm-City Week job exchange program, which gives city business owners and managers an opportunity to spend a

day on the farm with a local farmer. This farmer also has a chance to spend a day on the job with his exchange business partner — to learn how the other half lives and works.

As for Parker, even though her scheduled day on the farm was Wednesday, she had asked Laura and Bruce Heilinger, her host farm family, to call anytime a calf was about to be born. And as all farmers know, calves do not wait for a convenient time to be born. That was part of the

farm lesson Parker was about to learn one night last week.

The mayor said she was surprised at how easy a time the cow had and she was interested in how the farm family helped the birthing process.

"My major is in biology," Parker said. "So I like to be outdoors. But I'm impressed with just how much work farmers do. They can't call in sick. The work doesn't stop for holidays or if you don't feel like getting up in the morning.

"I was thinking how great it felt to get up at 7 a.m. and go out of doors to work on the farm this morning. But Laura reminded me that you still have to go look for the cows even if it is raining and cold," Parker said. "Still, I think it is a great way to start the day.

(Turn to Page A40)



Pennsylvania and Lancaster County Poultry Ambassador Rijelle Kraft holds her favorite chicken — a Cochin. She raises fancy fowl on the family farm in York County. Turn to page B2 to read more about this energetic high school senior who has been teaching embryology to elementary school students long before being named poultry ambassador.

## Lancaster Farming Celebrates 45th

Exactly 45 years ago today — Nov. 4, 1955 — *Lancaster Farming* appeared in rural mailboxes in southeast Pennsylvania. Since then, without interruption, *Lancaster Farming* has provided last-minute farm news, market and commodity price reports, agri-industry columns, special features from farm families, and advertising to our faithful readers. Farmers and agribusiness rely on our farm reporting every week. We extend a sincere "thank you" to all our readers.

## Christmas Tree Issue Identification, Addressing Grower Concerns Occupy New Agent's Agenda

ANDY ANDREWS  
*Lancaster Farming Staff*  
LEESPORT (Berks Co.) —

Penn State's new Christmas tree and nursery extension specialist wants growers to understand his plan.

First, according to Ricky M. Bates, assistant professor of ornamental horticulture, it will be important to identify industry issues "and address them through research and education, so we can get answers and recommendations back to you," he said.

Bates introduced himself to more than 50 growers early last week at the annual Penn State-sponsored Southeast Regional Christmas Tree Growers meeting at the Berks County Agricultural Center in Leesport.

Bates, who collaborated as a graduate student with Lancaster Farms, a nursery operated by Charlie Parkinson on the eastern shore of Virginia, discussed an array of research, such as "pot-in-pot" (PIP) production. PIP uses a container sunken in the ground, called a "socket pot" with a second "grow pot" (Turn to Page A39)



New Christmas tree/nursery specialist Ricky Bates, right, spoke at the recent southeast grower meeting in Leesport. Also at the meeting was new Berks horticultural agent Laura McNutt. Photo by Andy Andrews



Jackie Parker, Lebanon city mayor, feeds a newborn calf as part of her farm-city job exchange on the Heilinger Dairy Farm. The farm-city program is sponsored by the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce. Laura Heilinger and 3-year-old Emily help. Photo by Everett Newswanger, editor

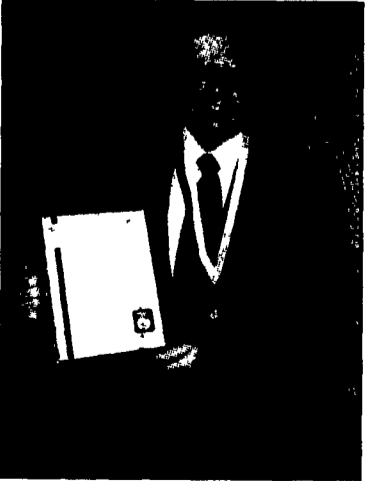
## FFA Discovers The Power At Louisville Convention

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The editor of *Lancaster Farming*, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA), and a 25-year sponsor of the National FFA Foundation were Pennsylvania's honorees at the 73rd National FFA Convention here last week.

The annual event's theme was "FFA — Discover The Power."

Editor Everett R. Newswanger received the Honorary American FFA Degree; Enos B. Heisey, Lebanon, was the 25-year sponsor; and Eugene P. Klynott, deputy secretary of agriculture for administration, accepted the 2000 distinguished service citation.

The highest honorary award is given by the national associa-



Everett R. Newswanger, Lancaster Farming editor, received the Honorary American FFA Degree.

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