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Lancaster Farming

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Soybean contest winners were announced at the Keystone Farm Show. From left, Steve Reigel, Annville, with Jeff Reigel, first place; and Gary Truckenmiller, Watson-town, third place. Photo by Andy Andrews

Crop Winners Announced At Keystone Farm Show

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
YORK (York Co.)—Winners of the Pennsylvania Five-Acre Corn Club and Pennsylvania Soybean Yield Contest were announced here at the York Fairgrounds last week during the annual Keystone Farm Show.

Dan Wolf, president of the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association (PMCGA), noted that of the 103 entries in the corn contest, there were some "notable differences," he said, in cultural practices compared to the 1999 contest. Only 7 of 91 growers used cultivation,

with most growers using 30-inch row spacing. The second highest spacing was 38 inches apart.

Wolf noted it is "hard to find significant differences in yield to favor one type of tillage over another," he told those attending the awards presentation at the fairgrounds.

About 44 percent of the contestants use sidedress nitrogen. Average planting depth was 1.7 inches. Corn acres grown by participants numbered 24,242.

For the most part, the year was substantially different in terms of total yield, a vast improvement from the statewide

drought of the previous summer. "Some don't appreciate how good of a year it was," Wolf said.

Greg Roth, Penn State corn specialist, noted on the summary that the "2000 season was a welcome improvement over 1999 for many producers," he wrote. "Top yields like this don't happen just by chance. They are the result of careful planning and top-notch management throughout the season."

Even with generally good
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Before The Internet, There Was The Stockyard

Part 1 of 3

MICHELLE RANCK
Lancaster Farming Staff

Editor's Note: This series examines the historical and present-day operation of Lancaster Stockyards — the stories, the

changes, and the contribution of the stockyards to the economy and the agriculture business. Part one of the three-part series gives an overview of the foundation and growth of the trading center.

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)—Before computers began to store information, before fax machines sent their first messages, before words zipped through lines as e-mail, and before the Internet became a main information source, business — believe it or not — was conducted.

Founded in 1895, the Union Stock Yard Company, later

Lancaster Stockyards, facilitated active livestock trading. The stockyard's original 23 acres, owned by the railroad, included a hotel, office building, and pens. A tunnel under the railroad led to loading and unloading wharves on the south side of the railroad to handle shipments of cattle.

The yards handled the roaring '20s the terrible '30s, the

soaring '60s, the addition of the auction, wars and the black market, fires, closing because of hoof and mouth disease, inflation and prosperity, and droughts during its years of business.

Recollections

Former cattle producer Ira D. Landis, Lititz, writes in a February
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Hybrid Reports In Corn Talk

This issue includes the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association (PMCGA) newsletter, *Corn Talk*. The newsletter features the 2000 Pennsylvania Commercial Hybrid Test Reports and other articles and advertising messages of interest to corn growers.

Westmoreland County Man Named Bid-Calling Champ

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—Randy Benton of Greensburg was given the title of "grand champion bid caller" at the 85th Pennsylvania State Farm Show.

The Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Pennsylvania Auctioneers Association welcomed 35 professional auctioneer contestants from across the commonwealth to participate in the Bid Calling Contest and Benefit Auction from which a portion of the proceeds go to the Pennsylvania Farm Show Scholarship Fund.

The competition began on Stage One of the Family Living Center, with words from Dennis Grumbins, Farm Show director, and Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes.

First, the nervous contestants began a warm up round. Next, each contestant was allowed three minutes to auction off two items. After the first round, 10 finalists were selected to auction off two additional items in a three-minute time limit per contestant. The finalists were then

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Winners of the bid calling competition at the Farm Show were, from left, Randy Benton, Greensburg; Tim Rocco, Erie; and Russel Wolf Jr., Lebanon.



These photos introduce a three-part series on the history of the Lancaster Stockyards. The top photo, with the date "March 14, 1950," shows the pens and alleys of the stockyard with the railroad, which ran adjacent to the yards, in the background. Originally owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad, the "Union Stock Yard Co." was founded in 1895. Before the advent of sale barns, livestock were moved primarily by rail and came to "terminals" such as this one in Lancaster. The bottom photo shows the short-statured cattle reminiscent of that era.