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Lancaster Farming

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Honored at the banquet of the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention with the 2000 Outstanding Grower Award was Lerew Brothers Orchard, York Springs. From left, Ben, Tom, Terry, and Jim Lerew. Presenting the award was Roger Wood, president of the National Peach Council. Photo by Andy Andrews

Fruit, Vegetable Convention Honors Grower Accomplishments

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — "I'm sort of the 'poster boy' for plum pox," said James Lerew of Lerew Brothers Orchard, York Springs. Lerew received the 2000 Outstanding Grower Award from

the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania (SHAP) Tuesday evening. The award was presented not only for Lerew's outstanding contributions to the industry, but he was honored for work to identify and control the plum pox virus in the
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Cattle Feeder's Day Features Quality Assurance

MICHELLE RANCK
Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Producing a quality product, as any farmer will attest, is not an accident but is the result of education and experience. At Lancaster's Cattle Feeder's Day Tuesday, producers took the opportunity to educate themselves on topics ranging from the future of the business, handling systems, process-verified cattle, food safety measures, and quality assurance certification.

Process Verified
Ken Jordan, San Saba, Texas, is director of auction sales of the Cattle InfoNet, a branch of e-merge. He also directs several auction markets for his family's business. More than 200,000 cattle have passed through the family's three auction markets. Take a proactive role, said Jordan, and portray a confident stance that "You know what you're doing. If you sell that, people will continue to consume beef." Electronic eartags have been an important tool in Jordan's process verified program.

This year Jordan hopes to see 1 million head of cattle with the electronic identification ear tags, which cost from \$2.40 to \$3.25. With these tags, producers have access to getting carcass data for their animals.
Guidelines
All process-verified cattle must meet specific sale guidelines. Benefits, said Jordan, include properly weaned, uniformly sorted animals. Cattle in the marketing facilities all meet same health requirements.
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Snow doesn't prevent Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Queen Deidra Smith and her sister, Kelsie, from caring for sheep on the family's Somerset County farm. Turn to page B10 to read about the recently crowned queen's advice on overcoming "baa'ed" experiences.
Photo by Gay Brownlee, Somerset County Correspondent

Dept. Declares Moratorium On Planting In Quarantine Area

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Late last week, Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Samuel Hayes Jr. declared a moratorium on the planting of plum pox virus (PPV) — susceptible trees or shrubs in the plum pox virus quarantine zones in Adams and Cumberland counties. The moratorium includes residential or business plantings, as well as new plantings in commercial orchards. The planting moratorium covers the same geographic area as the quarantine, including all of Dickinson Township, South Middleton Township, and Mount Holly Springs in Cumberland County. In Adams County, the area affected is Huntington Township, Lattimore Township, York Springs, the northern portion of Tyrone Township and the eastern portion of Menallen Township.
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Leon Ressler, left, will be Lancaster County Extension Services director. **John Schwartz**, right, outgoing county extension director (CED), will assume new duties as York County's CED. Photo by Andy Andrews

Extension Welcomes Director, Holds Commodity Sampling

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Dr. John Schwartz bid Lancaster Cooperative Extension Association members goodbye Thursday evening. After 10 years as director, Schwartz is transferring to York Extension since he lives in that county. Replacing Schwartz as director is Leon Ressler, who has worked with the Lancaster Extension for 13 years. Ressler and Schwartz addressed the 88th annual meeting, where directors were elected

and foods served from commodity county groups. Ressler said, "I remember my first assignment was a nutrient management project with the Rural Clean Water Program in 1987." Ressler has continued to be a strong force in ag and environmental issues, working with county farmers in nutrient management, composting, manure marketing, odor and fly issues, water quality and water rights. His position will be filled with another staff person to allow
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Pork Expo Includes Market Outlook, Trade Show

NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.) — The 23rd annual Keystone Pork Expo is scheduled next Tuesday, Feb. 6, here at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center on the fairgrounds. This year's meeting will fea-

ture a trade show with more than 30 exhibits and educational seminars for producers. The Expo will also again sponsor a "Pork Bowl" for competing FFA and 4-H members.
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