

Life Sci.

Lancaster Farming

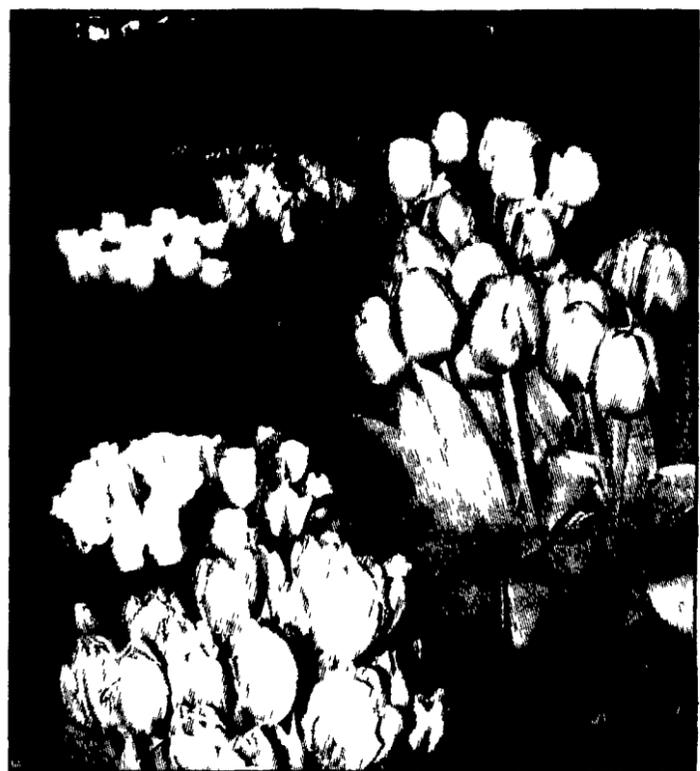
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Four Sections

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The recent Philadelphia Flower Show brought a dash of unabashed color and roomfuls of fragrance to visitors seeking signs of the new season. Spring begins next Tuesday. See full report on page B2.

Photo by Michelle Ranck

Editor's Note: "NASS: Agriculture Counts" is the title of a new column by Marc Tosiano, Pennsylvania state statistician.

Lancaster Farming believes the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS), of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), provides valuable information to farmers. Many rely on the annual PASS spring machinery custom rates, listed starting on page A25 this issue.

NASS
Agriculture Counts
By Marc Tosiano
Pa. State Statistician

This is the first article in a column called "Agriculture Counts." I want to thank the staff of Lancaster Farming for this opportunity to inform readers of how agricultural statistics

are used, the results of recent USDA surveys, and information about upcoming studies.

Because of the name, I am often asked if the Pennsylvania (Turn to Page A24)

Packers, Processors Compel Livestock Auctions To Put Anti-BSE Steps Into Place

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — Because of the recent concerns about bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), also called "mad cow disease," several processors are taking their own steps to ensure that livestock from auctions are certified safe.

According to a letter sent recently to producers from the Leesport Farmers' Market, the worldwide media attention on the BSE issue has forced many beef packers and processors, in addition to retail operations, to establish certification programs for their suppliers to ensure they are not receiving cattle that have been fed ruminant-derived protein materials.

Other livestock auctions have reported the same type of action. Jim DeGaetano of Carlisle said two packers have requested compliance from those who sell animals at the market. Jim Starlipper of Four States Livestock Sales in Hagerstown, Md., Fred-

erick Livestock Auction, and Westminster Livestock Auction, has a "stack of papers" regarding the compliance issue.

Mike McDermott, office manager at New Holland Sales Stables, has already been contacted by a couple of packers and is sure the certification program will also have to be under way at the auction.

According to Woody Weist, president of the Leesport market, in 1997, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) adopted a regulation, Title 21 Part 589.2000 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The regulations prohibit the feeding of ruminant meat and bone meal to ruminant animals.

Prohibited feed is not allowed to be fed to cattle. Producers are cautioned to buy "feed products only from companies that comply with FDA rules," according to a compliance letter.

This regulation, noted Weist in the letter, "resulted from efforts to control any possible introduction or spread of BSE or 'mad cow disease' into the domestic cattle herd of the United States."

No BSE has been reported in this country.

"Participating packers in the certification program have made it clear that they will not purchase any cattle from producers who have not signed a

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'Chicken Holiday' This Fall Could Help Stop Avian Influenza

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor

MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — The USDA wants live bird markets, this fall, to "take a holiday" for about three days.

It's all in an effort to rid flocks of the deadly yet persistent avian influenza (A.I.) virus that

devastated the industry in 1983 and posed another significant threat just a few years ago.

The USDA plans to compensate live bird market (LBM) operators \$1.5 million to break the infectious cycle that has been found to originate in the live (Turn to Page A44)

Good Named Food And Family Features Editor

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — Lou Ann Good, staff writer for Lancaster Farming, has been named food and family features editor for the paper.

Good joined Lancaster Farming in Aug. 1987. For 13 years, she has been responsible for food

and family features in the B section. In addition to expanding the cooking sections and feature stories, Good introduced the "You Ask, You Answer" column and the "Lancaster Farming Antiques Center" (Turn to Page A42)



The Livengood family was honored with the 2001 Soil Stewardship Award at last week's Lancaster County Conservation District banquet in New Holland. From left, Dwayne, Dale, Dean, Joyce, and Earl Livengood. For more about the award winners, see story page A36. Photo by Andy Andrews, editor



Lou Ann Good, right, has been appointed to the title of Lancaster Farming food and family features editor by Andy Andrews, editor, left. In her duties, Good will continue to oversee the editorial production of Section B and contribute to other sections of the paper.