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Lancaster Farming

Vol. 46 No. 22 www.lancasterfarming.com Four Sections Saturday, March 31, 2001 \$32.00 Per Year 60¢ Per Copy



An Amish farmer gets a step on working the fields with a harrow while the weather turned better, as only slightly warmer temperatures settled into Lancaster County later in the week. This is a field in Elizabeth Township, near Clay and Hackman roads. Eight mules help turn up the soil, warming it up for perhaps better seed-germinating conditions later on.

Every year brings new challenges for crop growers. Two years ago the state experienced the worst drought in its history. Last year brought lots of rain and some good crops all around. Who knows what's in store this time?

According to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS) in Harrisburg, the 2000 crop year was characterized by above-normal rainfall. Corn for grain, yielding 127 bushels to the acre, set a record. In comparison, PASS noted that the crop weather survey results for the week ending July 11, 1999, showed the corn condition at 21 percent poor to very poor, 46 percent fair, and 33 percent good to excellent. But the week ending July 9, 2000, showed the corn crop 7 percent poor to very poor, 17 percent fair, and 76 percent good to excellent. What a difference a year

makes!
Once again, PASS reminds farmers that it's time, along with the changing of the clock, to start the weekly Crop & Weather Roundup Inquiry for the 2001 crop season. The weekly crop weather survey is designed to track the week-to-week changes in crop conditions and stages of development, and the impact of weather events on those crop changes.

Each week, from April to November, farmers, extension agents, and agricultural specialists give their expert opinion about field conditions and crop progress in their county. Survey results are released on the Internet on the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin on the first business day of every week at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/. The first report will be released via Internet at 4 p.m. on Monday, April 2.

PASS is actively seeking news gatherers who are knowledgeable about growing conditions around their county. If interested, send an e-mail to nass-panass.usda.gov or call (800) 498-1518 and ask for Eric Stout, Stephanie Houston, or Marc Tosiano. Photo by Stan Hall

NCBA Award Recognizes Sayres For A Structure 'So Simple, It Works'

MICHELLE RANCK
Lancaster Farming Staff
CHURCHVILLE, Md. — "There's nothing really complicated about it," said Lawrason Sayre of the structure that won Waffle Hill Farm the national "Tips For Profit" award. "It's so simple, it works."
Lawrason and son Ned recently won the national "Tips for Profit" honor from the Na-

tional Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA).
To help increase beef production efficiency, the \$3,500 prize recognizes innovation and aids the flow of new ideas across the nation.

veloped an efficient method of feeding hay and managing manure. The invention not only enhances efficiency and reduces production costs but also protects the environment.

After the Sayres, who maintain a grass-based operation, phased out of corn silage, they tried feeding round bales in hay rings along the edge of the woods.

"We were hauling hay through the mud, the cows were knee-deep in mud, the calves were getting stuck in the mud, we were feeding every other day

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It's Time To 'Spring (The Clocks) Forward'

With the arrival of spring comes Daylight Saving Time, providing more hours of daylight for farmers.
It's time to "spring" forward to Daylight Saving Time, which begins tomorrow. We "spring forward" one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday, April 1.
So turn your clocks ahead before going to bed tonight. Remember, animal feeding and milking schedules need to be adjusted accordingly.

**Efficiency Boosted
Environment Protected**
The Sayres, owners of a 140-head Angus cow-calf herd, de-

Hayes Announces FMD Monitoring Measures

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — On Tuesday, because of the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in Europe, Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Samuel E. Hayes Jr. and state Veterinarian Dr. John Enck urged Pennsylvania's agricultural producers and veterinarians to be alert for signs of the disease and report any suspicious cases to the department at (717) 783-6677.
Hayes and Enck also an-

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Budgee Hill, fifth from left, holds onto the grand champion female in the open show at the Pennsylvania Holstein Spring Show late last week at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. Winner was an aged cow, M-Tex SS Olive (S: M-Tex Shur Shot, D: M-Tex B-Star Olive), owned by McCauley, Strouse, Connelly, and Thomas. In photo, from left, are state dairy royalty Heidi Miller, alternate dairy princess; Mindy Wolfe, dairy princess; Emily Cloninger, alternate dairy princess; and James Burdette, holding reserve champion; Hill; Sandy McCauley; Frank Connelly; Tom McCauley; Fred Strouse; and David Dymont, judge. See story page A36.
Photo by Andy Andrews, editor