

Lancaster Farming

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Growing Soybeans More Than Magical For Reigel Brothers

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ANNVILLE (Lebanon Co.)—
How many years have gone by
since we read a lot about "Soy-
beans — the Magic Beans"? At
least 15.

There was lot of publicity that
soybeans would become a major
crop to rival corn and wheat
acreage. If anything, uses for
soybeans were underestimated.

Soybean acreage has in-
creased substantially every year
since the United Soybean Board
was established in 1991 and the
national soybean checkoff
began.

First-place winners of the
2000 Pennsylvania Soybean
Yield Contest, Jeff and Steve
Reigel of Anville are an excel-
lent example of the trend to the

yearly increases in soybeans.
They took up the challenge on
entering the state soybean con-
test a few years ago.

Their persistence paid off.
Their 2000 soybean crop, evalu-
ated by Del Voight, Southeast
regional agronomy extension
agent, won them the top prize —
a trip to the 2002 Commodity
Classic in Nashville, Tenn., next
February. The Classic is the
combined convention and trade
show of the American Soybean
Association (ASA) and the Na-
tional Corn Growers Associa-
tion (NCGA).

As reported in the January 30
issue of *Lancaster Farming*, the
Reigels used Garst D398 seed
that yielded 70.58 bushel per
acres, significantly surpassing
the other 24 entries in the con-
test. (The next highest yield per
acre was 67.84 bushels.)

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Besides working for the family excavating firm, the Reigel brothers produce soybeans, corn, and wheat. They also maintain 40 head of registered Polled Herefords and grow out 34,000 broilers annually. The soybean field that yielded 70.58 bushels per acre won them first place in the 2000 Pennsylvania Soybean Contest. The Reigels used a commercial seed that yielded 70.58 bushels per acre, significantly surpassing the other 24 entries in the contest. (The next highest yield per acre was 67.84 bushels.) Photo by Michelle Ranck

Dairy Farmers Learn Ways To Help Stabilize Milk Prices

DAVE LEFEVER

Lancaster Farming Staff

QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — About a dozen dairy farmers gathered at the Solanco fairgrounds in Quarryville last week to learn about a new program that could help them stabilize the prices they receive for their milk.

The Dairy Options Pilot Program (DOPP) offers farmers an opportunity to use the futures market to guarantee a minimum

price for their milk in future months.

Dr. Ken Bailey, Pennsylvania DOPP coordinator and Penn State associate professor of dairy and marketing policy, said that the program is being offered to farmers for protection against a "boom and bust" cycle in the milk market.

"The milk market doesn't change slowly. It crashes," Bailey said. "Prices are very

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Agricultural Applications Of Technology At Geographic Information Conference

MICHELLE RANCK
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BALTIMORE, Md. — At the 14th annual Geographic Information Sciences Conference at the Baltimore Conference Center, more than 70 presentations featured the applications of geographic information systems (GIS) in the world today.

According to information

from the U.S. Geological Survey's Website, a GIS is a computer system capable of assembling, storing, manipulating, and displaying geographical data.

For example, a GIS allows emergency planners to calculate emergency response times during a natural disaster, or a GIS might be used to find wet-

lands that need protection from pollution.

Satellites relay information in a GIS system, a computerized mapping system. The way maps and other data have been stored or filed as layers of information in a GIS makes it possible to perform complex analyses.

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Kristy Gross is the third sister in her family to wear the Berks County dairy princess tiara, and Caitlyn Pool is the second girl in her family to be selected Little Miss. See story page B14.

Farm Council Discusses Food, Farm Future

MICHELLE RANCK
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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Maria van Hekken, Farmers' Market Trust representative, spoke about the third annual "Future of Our Food and Farms" summit to a gathering of agriculture representatives during a Monday meeting at the capitol.

Preceding van Hekken's presentation, the executive committee meeting of the Pennsylvania State Council of Farm organizations included legislative updates, policy and resolution updates, and executive committee meeting notes.

Farmers' Market Trust

According to van Hekken, the Farmers' Market Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the supply of afford-

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At three months old, Scottish Highland calf "Beauregard" has many shows ahead. Owner Joyce Harman of Flint Hill, Va., was one of many exhibitors who came to the recent Scottish Highland convention in Harrisburg. See story page A35. Photo by Michelle Ranck