

Life Sci. ✓



## Penn State Conducts Log-Grading Course

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*Lancaster Farming Staff*

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — No two trees are the same. Just as surely as there are various species, sizes, and environmental influences, there are different shapes, dimensions, and value of trees.

In the lumber industry, then, to fairly exchange this product, a quality and quantity grade is given to the logs.

"Buyers and sellers both use grades to treat each other fairly," said Lee Stover, Penn State senior research assistant for the wood products program in the school of forest resources.

Stover, who is also faculty coordinator for the wood products extension service, early this week led a two-day course that taught participants how to grade hardwood logs.

"This course helps the experts become more efficient and profitable, and the landowner to know what the value of their wood is, to determine what kind of lumber is in their logs," said course coordinator Danielle Kocovsky.

Kocovsky, professional development coordinator for the School of Forest Resources, said the school has been an annual offering for years.

However "this is the first year it was a two-day program. It gives the students more hands-on experience."

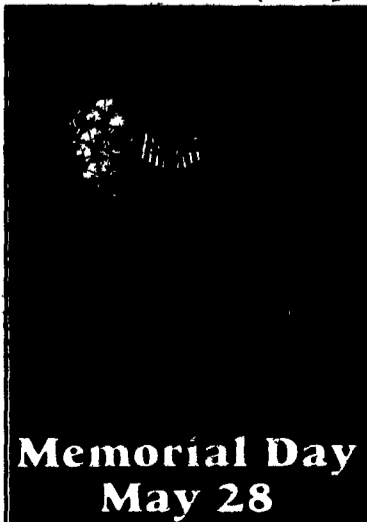
This year participants were able to follow the log through the sawmill stages to see the quality of lumber taken from the log.

### Weighing All Factors

Participants, armed with scaling sticks, tape measures, lecture notes, books, and calculators, weighed the various factors to determine a grade for the logs in Penn State's Ag Arena.

"It really is a hands-on learning experience, not something you can learn from a book," said Kocovsky. "That's why these courses are so important to people in the industry. We feel it's very important to share re-

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Memorial Day  
May 28

## Lancaster Farming Includes More Than 100 Market Reports

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — For the first time in its 45-year history, with this issue, *Lancaster Farming* includes more than 100 market reports in section A, covering a wide variety of crops and species.

In the past several months, market staff representatives at

the paper have been working diligently to provide additional market coverage. That includes the market at a glance summary on page A2 and additional coverage throughout the section.

Also, expanded coverage of Virginia feeder cattle markets

has been included. Our popular produce and poultry market reports have been expanded.

Look for additional improvements in the way we publish your paper, the "business desk" of Northeast and Mid-Atlantic high-production agriculture.

## Farmland Preservation Grows



Esther and Waldo Wood are happy to be the first farm in Tioga County that has entered the process to preserve farmland. "We didn't want this nice land to be developed," said Waldo. Protecting the family farm is a high priority for the Wood family, and that belief played a huge role in their decision to sell the development rights to their farm.

Photo by Carolyn Moyer, Bradford Co. correspondent

## Tioga Preserves First Farm

CAROLYN MOYER

*Bradford Co. Correspondent*

KNOXVILLE (Tioga Co.) —

Protecting the family farm is a high priority for the Wood family.

That belief played a huge role in their decision to sell the development rights to their farm, making this the first farm in Tioga County to be a part of the Farmland Preservation Program.

While Tioga County is widely known for its rolling tree-covered hills and prime hunting ground, farming is also a major economic force, with dairy farming high on the list. And, while development pressures are not as great here as in some areas of the state, the pressure is still very real.

The Wood's farm is situated only 15 miles from Rt. 15, a major north-south corridor. The farm is very near Cowanesque Lake and the Tioga-Hammond Dam, a prime recreation area. In fact, the farm is located right

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Moms never get a break, even if it is a holiday. A sow accompanies her pigs at a swine grazing operation, the John Moyer farm, on Stricklerstown Road south of Newmans-town. The state ag statistics service reported the week ending May 20 as suitable for fieldwork, but soil moisture was rated 37 percent very short, 44 percent short, 18 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. But corn and soybean planting continued ahead of the five-year average. Pasture was rated 62 percent fair to good, compared to 80 percent the previous week, because of overall lack of moisture. But rain returned to many farms this week, revitalizing pastures. Photo by Stan Hall

## Egg Quality In Spotlight At National School

DAVE LEFEVER

*Lancaster Farming Staff*

SALISBURY, Md. — About 80 people from all phases of the egg industry attended the National Egg Quality School (NEQS) conducted in this Eastern Shore town from Monday through Thursday this week.

Egg producers, processors, vendors, consumers, and government inspectors representing more than 20 states and several countries including Belgium, Canada, and Mexico studied all aspects of egg quality with national experts during four days of intensive learning sessions and laboratories.

NEQS Director Dr. Ken Anderson said that the national school began in 1993 when eastern and mid-western regional egg quality schools merged.

"The core emphasis (of the school) is always shell-egg quality, from farm to table," Anderson said. That includes physical quality of the egg as well as microbiological, he said.

Anderson said that emphasis on microbiological quality of the egg is a fairly new development, which began in the early 1990s as a response to concerns about Salmonella bacteria.

"The definition of quality has changed," he said.

New approaches to nutrient management — such as those being developed in Maryland as a result of the state's Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998 — could also have a bearing on egg quality, according to Anderson.

Maryland is taking measures to control excess phosphorus applications to the land. One is the treatment of poultry feed with an enzyme that increases the efficiency of phosphorus utilization in the bird, thus decreasing the amount of phosphorus excreted in the manure. (See related nutrient management story on page 36.)

Anderson said that such dietary changes can have a bearing on egg quality because phosphorus is a key compound in skeletal and shell structure and is closely linked in function

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## June 2 Issue For Dairy Readers

*Lancaster Farming's* annual tribute to dairy farms and the entire dairy agri-industry is scheduled next week. Included are several features, including a young family new to dairy farming, a milk bottler in the central part of the state, work under way to create a more nutritional milkshake, and lots of dairy recipes. The entire month will feature additional dairy news and views. For dairying, they should be dandy!