

## New Ag Institute To Educate, Promote Public Understanding

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with guns alone," he said, noting that nations have become subject to other nations because they lacked a viable agriculture.

"While agriculture remains our leading industry in the commonwealth, so much is changing," Hayes said. "Our progress from this point will determine how we transition agriculture in the new millenium. Understanding our past can help ease this transition to Pennsylvania's future."

To illustrate changes in agriculture in the last century, Hayes pointed out that two percent of our population is now farming to feed the other 98 percent — compared to 35 percent feeding the other 65 percent 100 years ago.

Partners in the new institute include the Landis Valley Associates ("friends" of the museum) and the Agricultural Coalition of Pennsylvania, a committee composed of agribusiness leaders in PennAg Industries Association.

Rep. Jere Strittmatter, (R-Lancaster), honorary director of the LVA and one of the developers of the institute, emphasized the importance of education as it relates to public policy.

"We need to do a better job of interrelating our educational and agricultural resources. Education is vital because the shaping of public policy relies on an informed citizenry," he said. "Agriculture is rapidly evolving

but few Pennsylvanians understand how it relates to their life."

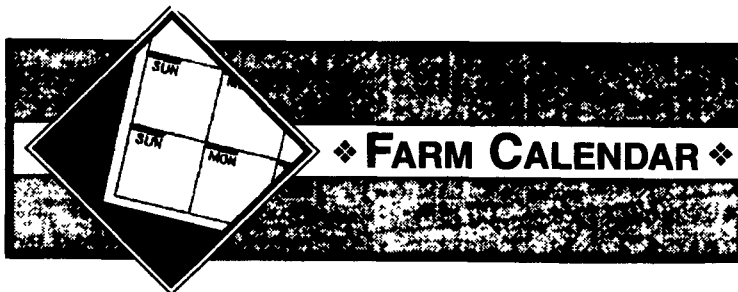
Calling the agricultural museum at Landis Valley "the best in the world," largely because of the preservation of surrounding farmland. Strittmatter said he looks forward to working with the new institute on scholarly findings related to "news-breaking topics affecting advanced agriculture and Pennsylvania."

According to Wenger, the first step of the institute will be to develop a steering committee composed of agricultural representatives, the historical and educational communities, government, farmland interest, and other partners to establish the institute model.

"We will strive for sound, balanced, and effective educational projects that meet the criteria for accuracy and academic excellence," Wenger said.

Others present at the launch of the new project included state senator Noah Wenger, PHMC executive director Brent Glass, the Hans Herr chapter of the FFA, and farmland preservation representatives from various counties.

The Landis Valley Museum is a 100-acre, living history farm and agricultural facility, featuring original farmsteads dating to the early 1800s, historic breeds of plants and animals, and demonstrations of traditional skills such as basketmaking and tinsmithing.



### FARM CALENDAR

(Continued from Page A10)

Show, Solanco Fairgrounds, Quarryville, 10:30 a.m., 548-3116.

Mercer County Cooperative Wool Growers' Association, Stoneboro Fairgrounds, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.; and July 12, 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

Lancaster County 4-H Dairy Show, Solanco Fairgrounds, Quarryville, 9 a.m.

Pennsylvania Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Certification, Phase II: Stockdale Farm, Dayton, 6:30 p.m.

Somerset County Holstein Show, Somerset County Fairgrounds, Meyersdale.

Thursday, July 12

Organic Crop Production Farm Tour, Tim and Ann Bock Farm, 7 p.m.

Weed Tour, Russell E. Larson Ag Center, Rockspring, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., (814) 865-2242 or (814) 865-2543.

Lycoming County Fair, Hughesville Fairgrounds, thru July 21, (570) 584-2196.

Southeast Pa. 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, Romano 4-H Center, 9:30 a.m.

Pennsylvania Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Certification, Phase II, Swank Farm, New Kensington, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, July 13

Virginia Holstein Association's Annual Field Day, Jareco Farm, Penbrook, 10 a.m., (540) 347-9591.

Berks County Holstein Club

Picnic/Pig Roast, Oaken-bound Holsteins, Nelson and Richard Troutman families, Myerstown, 7 p.m.

Pennsylvania Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Certification, Phase II, Oren Smith farm, Avella. For directions, Washington County Extension, (724) 229-6881.

Dauphin County Holstein Twilight Meeting, ETC Farm, Earl Campbell Family, southeast of Gratz Fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m., (717) 362-8405.

Saturday, July 14

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Course, Kane, McKean County, (814) 867-9299.

Lehigh Valley Wine Trail, Fourth Anniversary Weekend, (610) 927-2505.

Wyoming and Lackawanna Counties Holstein Picnic and Barn Meeting, Bob Wilson farm, Mehoopany.

Sunday, July 15

Jefferson County Fair, thru July 21, (814) 265-0640.

Allegheny County (Maryland) Fair, Cumberland, Md., (301) 729-1200.

American Chestnut and Forest Stewardship Planning, Presentations and Tours, Leffel's Tree Farm and Woodlot, Broque.

Monday, July 16

Governor's Institute for Agricultural Science Careers, Penn State Conference Center, 8 a.m.-noon.

Forest Resources Institute for Teachers, grades 3 thru 12, Sandy Lake, thru July 19.

Forest Resources Institute for Teachers, Erie County, thru July 19, (814) 563-9388.

Ag In the Classroom Conference at Penn State, University Park, (724) 458-6108.

Tuesday, July 17

Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association Summer Conference, State College, thru July 18.

Jacktown Fair, Fair Grounds in Wind Ridge, thru July 21.

Wednesday, July 18

Pasture Walk (PASA), Johnson's Provident Farm, Seasonal Dairy, Solar Pump and Soil Mineralization.

Baltimore County 4-H Fair, Cockeysville, Md., thru July 22, (410) 666-1025.

Maryland Vegetable Growers Association's Marketing Twilight Meeting, Knill's Farm Market, Mt. Airy, Md., 6:30 p.m.

Lycoming County Holstein Show, Lycoming Fairgrounds, Hughesville.

Thursday, July 19

American Coalition for Ethanol Annual Meeting and Conference, Aberdeen S.D., thru July 20.

Delaware State Fair, thru July 28, (302) 398-3269.

Potter County picnic and tour, "Progress Through Communications For Agriculture," Barnett Farm, Ulysses, (814) 274-8540.

Kent County, Md. Fair, thru July 21.

Penn State Ag Council Conference, Ag Arena, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Friday, July 20

Cecil County, Md. Fair, North-east, thru July 28, (410) 658-7350.

PASA Field Day, Penn State Horticulture Research Farm, Rockspring, (814) 349-9856.

Saturday, July 21

Garden tour, Historic Heidelberg and Middlecreek Twps., Lebanon County, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Northwest Pennsylvania Holstein Championship Show, Bradford County Fairgrounds, Meadville.

Shippensburg Community Fair, thru July 29.

Bradford County 4-H Roundup Judging, Troy Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Frederick and Montgomery Counties (Maryland) Holstein and Brown Swiss Field Day, Frederick County Fairgrounds.

American Society For Horticulture Science Conference and Exhibition, Sacramento, Calif., thru July 25.

Sunday, July 22

Clarion County Fair, Red Bank Valley Park, thru July 28, (814) 275-3929.

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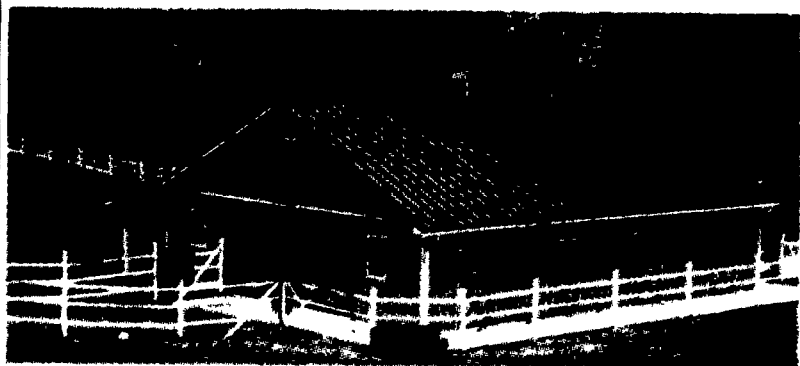
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