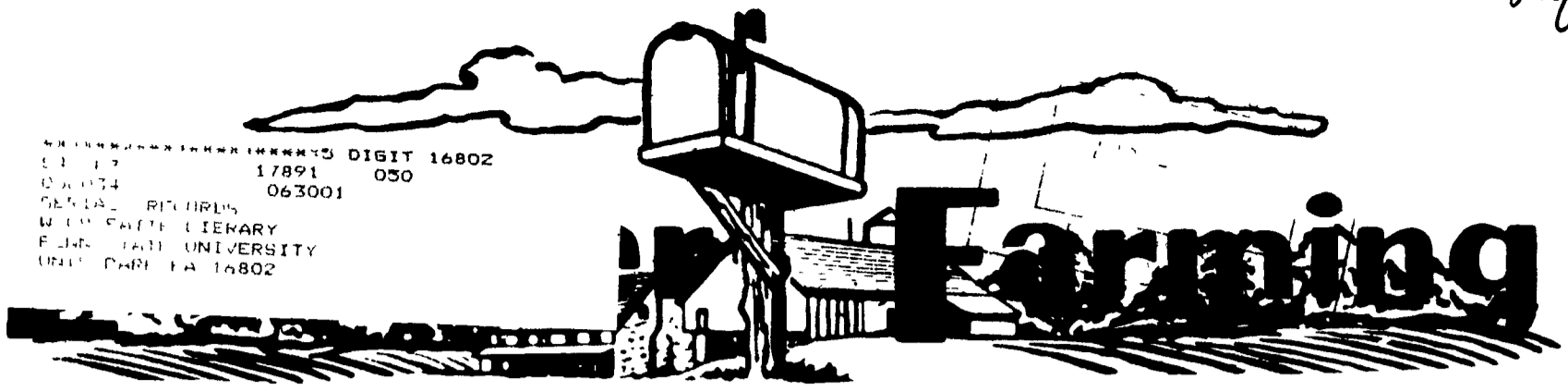

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Chopper 'Checks Out' Farm Fields



HOLTWOOD (Lancaster Co.) — Larry Smith, remotely piloted vehicle (RPV) aerial photographer, left, uses a radio control stick to guide a miniature helicopter over the crowd gathered Wednesday morning at Steve Groff's eighth annual Farm Field Day. Smith says he can use the helicopter to hover over fields to take video or still photos of weeds or other field activity. Smith can guide the chopper "as far as I can see," he said. Read more about the RPV demonstration on page A32.
Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

Economist: Major Changes Unlikely In 2002 Farm Bill

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff
UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — While national farm and commodity groups lobby U.S. lawmakers for a 2002 Farm Bill they hope will meet their needs, the new bill will probably not differ greatly from the current one, according to Penn State ag economics professor James Dunn.
"It's difficult for it to change very much," Dunn said. "It's so big and complicated."
The U.S. House Agriculture Committee recently unveiled a bill proposal drafted by Chairman Larry Combest (R-Texas) and Charlie Stenholm (D-Texas).

Because of the complexities involved, and because legislators do not want to risk alienating large portions of their constituency, "They make changes at the margins (of the bill)," Dunn said.
One major question for Pennsylvania dairy farmers, however, is whether or not the new bill will continue to mandate milk price supports as an "insurance policy against low prices," he said.
The current Farm Bill, passed in 1996, called for milk price supports to end in 2000. However, because of low milk prices last year, supplemental federal funds were released to keep the
(Turn to Page A36)

U.S. Harnesses Receive High Marks In Belgium

GAY BROWNLEE
Somerset Co. Correspondent
Editor's Note: This article will update interested readers on a story published Feb. 10 this year in Lancaster Farming. It concerns a businessman from the country of Belgium who ordered harnesses to be made by Amish

harnessmakers in Somerset County. In Belgium on Aug. 28, the harnesses will be used in a 76-horse hitch to set a new record and break the current one of a 56-horse hitch in the Guinness Book of World Records.
ANTWERP, Belgium — On
(Turn to Page A11)

Penn State Labs Work To Make Food Safer

LOU ANN GOOD
Food And Family Features Editor
UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Many readers have never been a student at Penn State University. Regardless, Dean Girton, president of the Penn State Ag Council, said of the land grant university, "This is your university, and we want to be relevant to meet your (consumer and agriculturists) needs."

Last week, the Penn State Agriculture Council presented a daylong session on food safety and emerging diseases and the research protecting agriculture and consumers. Participants toured Penn State's research facility and sat in several classrooms and labs to hear about the work.
The food science department had been formed in 1975, and
(Turn to Page A31)

Which Came First: Hen Or Hatchery? Although Hen Has History, Hatchery Has Volume

MICHELLE RANCK-KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff
ELIZABETHTOWN (Lancaster Co.) — A visitor pulling up to Longenecker Hatchery, Inc., located here, should have little doubt as to what resides inside. The chirping of thousands of fluffy chicks is unmistakable.
The hatchery brings 36,000,000 chicks into the world every year to fill the demand for broilers.
The independent hatchery markets four strains of chicks,

since each customer works with a different weight level — from 4-5.5 pounds — age, or conformation for their own market.
"We chose a bird that would be the most efficient for each one of those categories," said John Martin, president.
"In the late '40s and early '50s, it would take 16 weeks to produce a four-pound bird. It now takes less than six weeks with a lesser amount of feed to reach that because of genetics and nutrition," said Martin, who pointed out that chicken
(Turn to Page A21)

Lancaster Farming
Dairy of Distinction Supplement to Lancaster Farming Saturday July 28 2001
Family Farms Honored As 2001 Dairies Of Distinction

 Crystal Spring Farm, Millstown, Juniata County	 Caradale Farms, Salisbury, Somerset County
 Kewland Farms, Volant, Lawrence County	 Four Winds Farm, Rising Branch, Tioga County
 Point Wood Farms, Berlin, Somerset County	 Hook Farms, Womelsdorf, Berks County

Dairy of Distinction
Dairy Farm Recognition Program

In this issue we salute the new Dairy of Distinction winners from across the commonwealth. This year, 18 family farms were selected for the positive image of the dairy industry that they reflect. Winners were nominated by district and will be recognized at a ceremony conducted at Ag Progress Days on Aug. 14.

Districts Recognize Award Winners

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) recognized individuals and organizations for supporting Pennsylvania conservation efforts at its annual awards ceremony here July 17. Award recipients were nominated by their county conservation district.
This year's PACD Conservation Award winners are:
• 2000 National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)/PACD Conservation Award — Bradford Conservation District. The Bradford Conservation District provides numerous education and technical assistance programs for students, teachers, and other community members. Programs focus on conservation education, agriculture, and nutrient best management practices, nonpoint source pollution prevention and environmental stewardship of the soil, water, forest, and wildlife resources within Bradford County.
• Conservation Farmer of the Year — Stan and Cindi Bucher, Lebanon County. The Buchers own and operate a 116-acre dairy and crop farm and employ numerous conservation prac-
(Turn to Page A22)