

# Lancaster Farming

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## With Ridge, Pa. Becomes National Leader In Farmland Preservation



Wednesday at Ag Progress, Gov. Tom Ridge, far right, greets, from left, Dean Robert Steele, Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences and Graham B. Spanier, Penn State president. Sam Hayes Jr., state ag secretary, accompanies Ridge. Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

ANDY ANDREWS  
Editor

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — It is a time of celebration, and a time of action.

State dignitaries turned out in force Wednesday during Ag Progress Days to provide some groundbreaking news: Pennsylvania leads the nation in ag

preservation. But a Farm Bill approaches, and farmers must make their voices heard.

The state's "Growing Greener" program, what state leaders believe is the largest environmental investment in Pennsylvania history, helped to preserve 467 farms, more than 53,000 acres since January 2000,

the program's start.

"It took eight years to preserve the first 100,000 acres," Ridge told hundreds of guests at the beginning of the Government and Industry Lunch hosted by the College of Agricultural Sciences in the Special Events Building at Ag Progress.

(Turn to Page A37)



Visitors enjoy watching alfalfa chopping during a wide array of equipment demonstrations at Ag Progress Days. More coverage of the event is included throughout the issue. Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

## Students Widen Horizons At Governor's School

DAVE LEFEVER

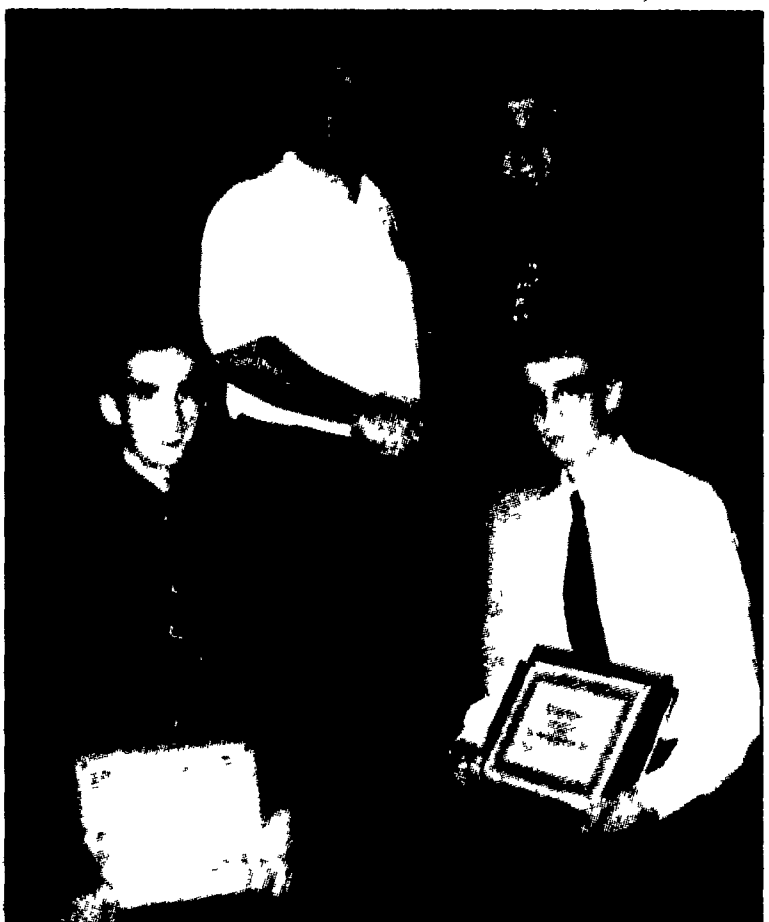
Lancaster Farming Staff  
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.)

— People who are concerned about the future of agriculture and the environment have 64 new reasons to be hope-

ful. That is how many high school (Turn to Page A36)

### Winner Chosen

Winner of the ice cream freezer contest at Ag Progress was Barbara Sheriff, Carlisle.



Richard Ferraioli Jr., back, right, was presented with a special Outstanding 4-H'er citation by Rep. John Lawless, standing at left, at last week's Montgomery County 4-H Fair. In front, two 4-H ambassadors were also honored: Matt, left, and brother Ryan Kadwill. See story page A24.

Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

## Conservation Practices For Lanes, Woodlots Demonstrated At Ag Progress

DAVE LEFEVER

Lancaster Farming Staff  
ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.)

— Visitors to Ag Progress Days this week had opportunities to learn about a variety of agricultural and woodland sustainability practices.

Besides seminars on basic conservation ag methods, landowners and others also took tours that demonstrated practices such as building and maintaining farm lanes and managing woodlots.

Woody Colbert, coordinator of the State Conservation Commission (SCC) Dirt and Gravel

Road Pollution Prevention Program, said that some of the principles that work best when it comes to road construction were employed by the Romans centuries ago.

One of the ancient principles rediscovered recently is that road surfaces in wet areas last longer if they are underlaid with a "separation fabric" to prevent fine clay particles from being drawn by water up into the sur-

face layer. Clay particles in the water make a slippery fluid at the base stones of the surface layer and cause it to deteriorate, leading to potholes.

According to Colbert, materials used by the Romans for laying under road surfaces included burlap and straw, but today a geosynthetic petroleum-based fabric is used for essentially the same purpose.

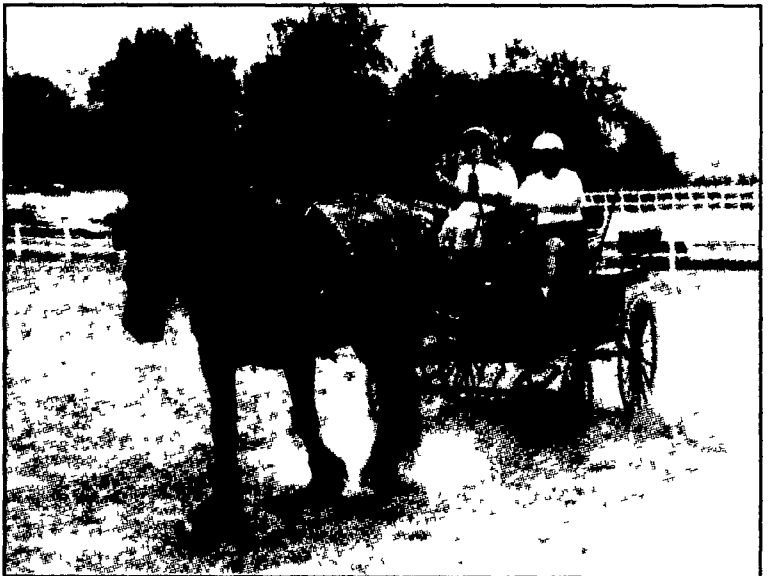
(Turn to Page A29)

## Office Closed Labor Day

On Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 3, Lancaster Farming office is closed. The office will reopen Tuesday, Sept. 4.

For the Sept. 8 issue, there is a change in the deadline for advertising.

Print ads — Sept. 31.  
Classified ads — Sept. 5.  
Farm News — Sept. 9 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 5.  
General News — noon, Thursday, Sept. 6.



Accompanied by Linda Wagner, Misty Owens is at the halter of Daisy, a 13-year-old draft horse, during a special Franklin County 4-H Therapeutic Riding Center demonstration Wednesday at Ag Progress. For more about the benefits of the program, see story page A21.

Photo by Andy Andrews, editor