

Life

Lancaster Farming Writer Travels To Poland

LOU ANN GOOD
*Food And Family
Features Editor*

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — To fly to Poland for three weeks isn't a typical assignment for a *Lancaster Farming* writer. But it promises to be educational and exciting.

I will accompany Penn State Extension's professional development team as they travel throughout Poland. The purpose is two-fold: to share extension projects that have worked in the U.S. and can be shaped to fit Polish needs, and to learn from them.

Because Poland has no natural borders to the east and west, it has often been overrun by other countries, especially by Germany and Russia, which borders it.

World War II was especially devastating to Poland. Nazi Germany killed six million Poles and all the Polish Jewish population living in Poland. After the war, Poland fell under communist rule.

Amazingly they maintained more freedom than any other communist country. Their refusal to be controlled and their staunch faith in God are the reasons attributed for Poland being able to survive intense oppression.

The country is more than 90 percent Catholic and, unlike other communist countries,
(Turn to Page A36)



The Poland team from left, Katherine Wentzel, Lee Hanle Younge, Lou Ann Good, Jan Schroll, Marcy Tutor, Anne Luken, Nancy Crago, Sarah Siegel, Cathy Southwick,

Deborah Gregory, Darlene Price, and Yvonne Szpara. Both Schroll and Gregory are former participants and will not be accompanying the tour to Poland.

Farming Along Major Highways Presents Many Challenges

CAROLYN N. MOYER
Tioga Co. Correspondent

ELVERSON (Chester Co.) — It's 5 a.m. Saturday morning. For the Bill Beam family, who farm 1,500 acres in this heavily populated area, it's one of the few times they can move large pieces of farm equipment without causing a traffic jam.

"When I first started farming

ground toward Downingtown in 1982, I didn't have to go through a single stop light. Now there are quite a few. Traffic has increased dramatically. We've had to adjust the movement of equipment around the time of day," Beam said. "On the weekdays it seems you can't get up early enough to beat the traffic."

Farming is chock-full of daily

difficulties that can be overcome with a little patience and perseverance. But when you factor in the growing population right outside your doorstep, those difficulties often change your lifestyle. Beam is one of the many farmers who deal with the increased challenges of farming along a major highway every day.

"I basically live in semi-suburbia," said Beam, who is located 30 miles west of Philadelphia in an area that is growing rapidly. "There is preserved land right next to me, but we lose farms all the time. I'm not sure who's going to win."

Beam now farms 30 tracts, some of which are spread out 15-20 miles away. He doesn't remember a time when this area of the state wasn't buzzing with traffic but he has seen an in-

crease in the number of vehicles.

A check of the traffic statistics confirms this ever-growing trend. According to the Bureau of Transportation, in 1965 there were 91,739,623 registered vehicles on the highway. In 1998, according to the most recently published statistics, there were 215,496,003 registered vehicles. That corresponds to a national population of 270,248,003 people in 1998. Number of miles
(Turn to Page A41)



Breed champion bovine dairy lineup at this week's Allentown Fair, from left, includes Amber Hollowell, Guernsey; Jill Neiman, Jersey; Jill Vail, Ayrshire; Crystal Miller, Holstein; Seth Wolfgang, Lineback; and Shannon Semmel, Brown Swiss. See page A24 for a full report. Photo by Dave Lefever

**Lou Ann
In
Poland**



The culture of Poland comes alive. *Lancaster Farming's* Food and Family Features Editor Lou Ann Good is traveling throughout Poland for three weeks. Her diary is the first of several articles and photos that highlight her tour. Read a full report page A36.