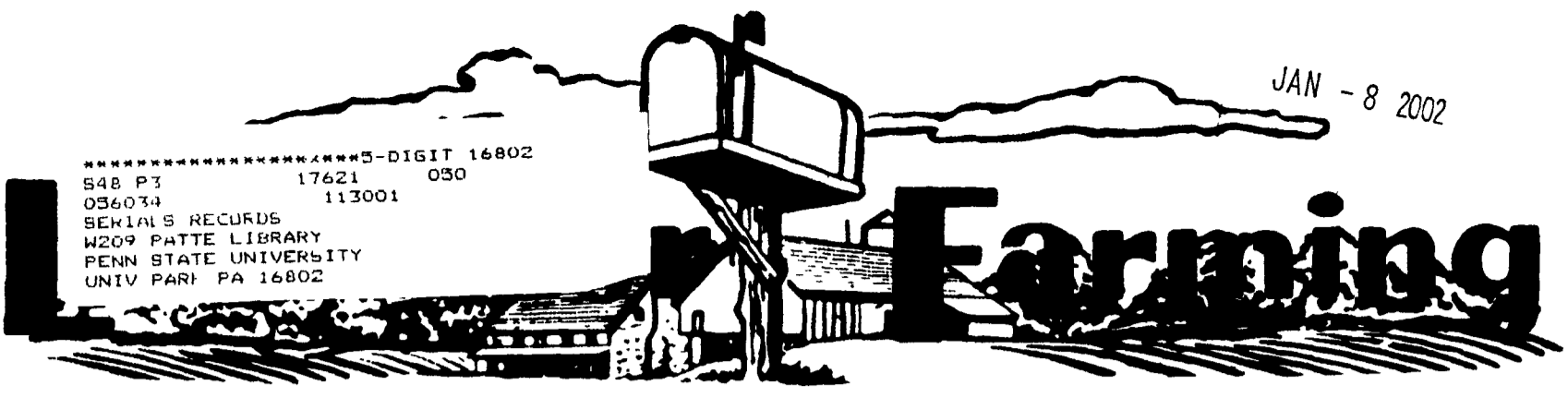


Lifescs ✓

JAN - 8 2002

*****5-DIGIT 16802
S48 P3 17621 030
036034 113001
SERIALS RECORDS
W209 PATTE LIBRARY
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIV PARK PA 16802



Farmers Dispute Local Ordinances Curbing Intensive Agriculture Regulations Called Unconstitutional

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff
NEEDMORE (Fulton Co.) — Four farmers have sued the Belfast Township board of supervisors here for adopting laws designed to freeze the growth of intensive and corporate agriculture in the township.
Filed the last week of November, the lawsuit claims that three ordinances passed by the Fulton County township within the last year and a half are unlawfully restrictive and, in several instances, violate the U.S. and Pennsylvania constitutions.
Dave Garrison of Stevens & Lee law firm near Philadelphia

is representing the plaintiffs — two livestock producers and two dairy producers operating in Belfast Township.
“When viewed collectively and in context, the three ordinances are clearly an illegal attempt to hinder or prohibit corporate animal farming in the township,” Garrison writes in the lawsuit.
One of the ordinances, adopted in its final version last February, essentially prohibits nonfamily corporations or syndicates from establishing new or expanding current livestock operations in the township.
Titled the “Belfast Township

Farm Ownership Ordinance,” the law allows that a nonfamily corporation engaged in ag production at the time the ordinance was adopted may continue to operate.
“However, this exception does not allow the corporation or syndicate to change or alter the nature or extent of the farming enterprise currently existing on the farm,” the ordinance states.
Another provision in the law is that family corporations are allowed to operate under the stipulation that at least one of the family members “shall

(Turn to Page A27)

A.I. Shows Up In Union County 'Tis The Season For Biosecurity,' Says Hayes

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Recently five flocks in Union County have tested positive for avian influenza.
Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes presided at a press conference Wednesday with the assistance of state veterinarian John Enck and PennAg vice president Jim Shirk.
“This is not a crisis,” said Hayes. “It is not to sound an alarm. There is a smidgen of the H7N2 virus in the commonwealth right now, but we’re

moving with dispatch,” he said. “What we have to do is react effectively.”
Five different growers own the five flocks that are located in lower Union County, close to the Centre and Snyder county lines. Two flocks of broiler breeders, about 8,000 birds each, and one flock of 56,000 broilers were infected.
Two flocks that turned up positive after the press conference will be depopulated and composted within the house, said Shirk.
“One of the biggest risks in

biosecurity is moving birds that are shedding the virus around. We want to use extreme caution to reduce feathers and dust flying off farms. It’s a better option to lock them down inside the house,” said Shirk.
The two additional flocks, 11,000 in each flock and two different owners, are located within the same area as the first three flocks that tested positive.
Within a two-mile radius every bird will be marketed by Saturday, said Shirk. “If they are negative we don’t want them to go positive. The best option for the producer is to have negative birds and take them to market,” he said.
“We’re not going to go and just simply depopulate in that 5-mile radius,” he said. “We’re surveying and testing flocks to make sure they don’t have the virus, and we are asking houses to stay empty after flocks get out.”

(Turn to Page A26)

Bowersox Family Furnishes White House With Christmas Tree



This 12-foot Douglas fir from the Hill View Christmas Tree Farm owned by the Bowersox family near Middleburg now adorns President and Mrs. Bush’s private residence in the White House. From left, Aimee, Darryl, and Janice Bowersox.
Photo by Gail Strock, Mifflin Co. correspondent

GAIL STROCK
Mifflin Co. Correspondent
MIDDLEBURG (Snyder Co.) — “I took the best we had,” said Darryl Bowersox of Middleburg, when referring to choosing a Concolor fir tree from his family tree farm to enter in the National Christmas Tree contest in August 2000. “Once we got there and I saw the other trees, I knew we had a definite shot at it (winning).”
(Turn to Page A25)

Farm Show Issue Deadlines

On New Year’s Day, Tuesday, January 1, Lancaster Farming office will be closed. The office will reopen Wednesday, January 2.
For the January 5 Farm Show issue, there are some early deadline changes:
Public Sale and Mailbox ads, 5 p.m., Friday, December 28.
Classified, Section D ads - 4 p.m., Monday, December 31.
Classified, Section C, Farm Equipment ads, 9 a.m., Wednesday, January 2.
General News - noon, Wednesday, January 2.



The Don Chamberlain family was honored with the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award at the Tioga County agricultural banquet. Shown here, from left, are Cassie, Tyler, Don, and Lugene Chamberlain. See story page A36. Photo by Carolyn N. Moyer, Tioga Co. correspondent

