

Changes, Challenges

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any other state in the nation.

March

Media attention prompted packers and processors to take additional steps to establish certification programs for their suppliers.

USDA announced that in the fall will be a "chicken holiday" of three days in an effort to rid flocks of avian influenza.

USDA announced a settlement with the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) and Michigan Pork Producer Association to continue the Pork Checkoff Program. This ensured the separation of the National Pork Board and the NPPC.

"Cyagra Z" and "Genesis Z," two cloned calves owned by the Wiles family of Futurland 2020 Holsteins, Williamsport, Md., arrived at the farm, the first cloned calves to be returned to the farm.

April

Industry representatives and lawmakers met at the capitol building to discuss foot and mouth disease. Hayes explained Pennsylvania's emergency action response, ready in case of outbreak.

NPPC canceled the World Pork Expo to protect U.S. swine from foot and mouth disease.

Officials launched Pennsylvania's program to detect and control mosquitoes that carry west Nile virus with \$3.3 million in grants to counties for mosquito surveillance and control.

Pennsylvania legislators unveiled a bill to combat agro-

terrorism (deliberate infection of farm animals with contagious diseases) at a capitol news conference.

May

A proposed law was introduced in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives that would require stricter sanitation standards for animal exhibitors in the state. This came as a response to an outbreak of E. coli bacteria reported to have caused illness in a Montgomery County girl.

In New York, the Assembly passed legislation creating a Council on Sustainable Agriculture within the Department of Agriculture and Markets.

June

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture distributed thousands of posters to county and community fairs to highlight awareness of E. coli and prevent the entry of foot and mouth disease into the commonwealth.

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) announced that it would, with a grant from the USDA, carry out national producer education as the first part in the effort to eradicate scrapie from the nation's sheep and goat herds.

USDA released a breeding structure report that stated that larger operations account for nearly three-fourths of the U.S. pig crop. The average number of pigs per year per breeding animal has increased from 10.3 in 1979 to 16.2 in 2000.

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman announced that \$30

million would be available through two new programs. This provided additional conservation assistance to the nation's landowners.

July

The separation of the National Pork Producers Council from the checkoff-funded activities of the National Pork Board went into effect.

Farm Show Complex announced a \$66.2 million upgrade to make the facilities "world-class."

August

Pennsylvania observed its 200,000-acre milestone in August at Ag Progress Days in Rockspring, Centre County.

The USDA announced new confidentiality guidelines for the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Program which would, according to USDA, increase the number of reports available while protecting the identity of the market participants.

September

Although the epicenters were in New York, Washington, D.C., and western Pennsylvania, shockwaves reverberated throughout the world on September 11 as a result of terrorist attacks. Ag trade was among the many victims of the atrocities.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) expanded Pennsylvania's drought watch to a total of 45 counties.

The five milk cooperatives of Advantage Dairy Group discontinued merger discussions.

Hundreds of people attended a groundbreaking ceremony at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg to celebrate the renovation and expansion project.

October

Four-year-old Holstein Tri-Day Ashlyn ET was named supreme champion at the All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg. She then went on to be named supreme cow of all breeds at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis.

Beef and pork production set records during October. Commercial meat production for the U.S. totaled 4.26 billion pounds in October.

November

USDA announces that it will visit area dairies in January to conduct the initial survey for Dairy 2002, a national study of health and health management practice at U.S. dairies.

December

The year finished on a high note in farmland preservation with a record-breaking 309 farms preserved in 2001. The Farmland Preservation Board also approved the addition of Bradford and Huntingdon counties into the Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Program, bringing the total number of counties participating to 53. Since 1989, Pennsylvania has preserved 1,785 farms, totaling 215,243 acres across Pennsylvania.

The Bowersox family, Middleburg, won the National Christmas Tree contest in August to be able to supply the White House with their holiday tree.

Lancaster Farming Activities

Here at the newspaper, the year brought changes and challenges, but also served to help the paper grow and improve. A few of the highlights include:

The last issue in February of *Lancaster Farming* was the final

published under the direction of former editor Everett Newswanger.

Andy Andrews assumed the editorship of the paper. Andrews joined the paper in 1990 as a staff writer after working as a writer and editor for several industries. A 1982 graduate of Temple University in magazine journalism, Andrews was raised in New Holland, where he worked on a farm.

Also in February, Lancaster Farming added "NASS: Agriculture Counts," a new column by Marc Tosiano, Pennsylvania state statistician. Other columns have been added since, including "Focus On Dairy" from the capitol region team, and a new column, "Ag Sustainability," by Ed Herrmann. "Farm Shelf" is a book review column also begun this year.

In mid-March, Lou Ann Good, who joined the newspaper as a staff writer in 1987, was named food and family features editor.

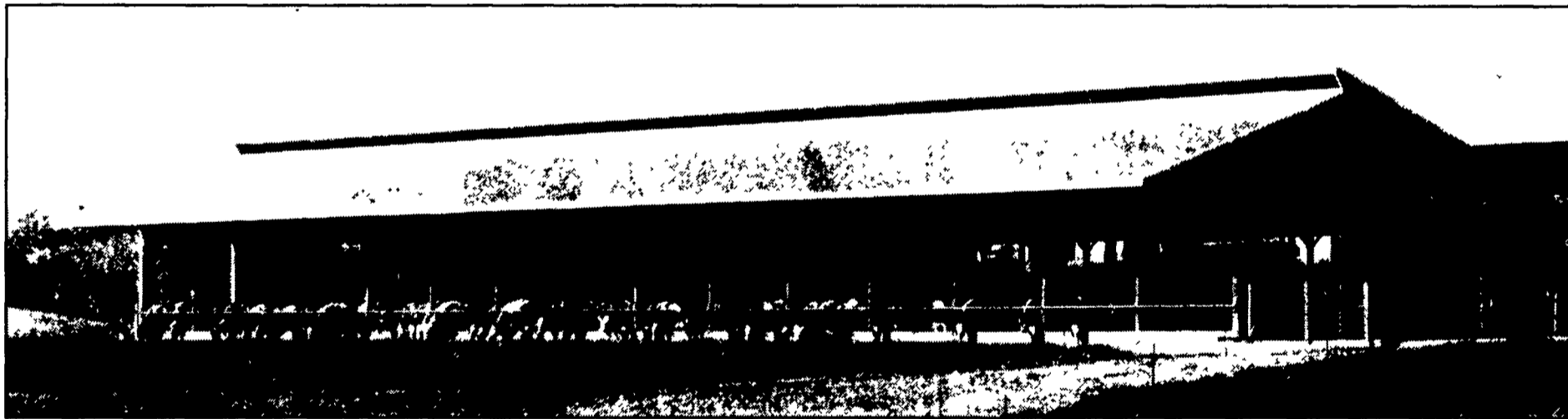
New correspondents working for the paper since March include Kristin Russell, Blair County; Deanna Cunfer, Carbon/Schuylkill counties; Virginia Heckert, Columbia County; Deb Wilhelm, Armstrong County; Sandra Lepley, Somerset County; Gay Brownlee, new Virginia correspondent; Becca Gregor, Penn State area correspondent; and Dr. Tom Hopkins, Maryland correspondent.

Early this year the paper conducted a readership survey to serve our subscribers more effectively.

In late March, Millie Bunting joined the editorial/market support staff of *Lancaster Farming*. A Penn State graduate, Bunting,

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