

# Lancaster Farming

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## World's Smallest Breed Of Cattle Growing In America



Richard and Sue Powell, Bainbridge, have been raising and breeding Irish Dexter cattle, the smallest purebred breed of cattle in the world, for six years.  
Photo by Michelle Kunjappu

**MICHELLE KUNJAPPU**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
QUARRYVILLE, BAINBRIDGE (Lancaster Co.) — If your last name is O'Connell, Donovan, or O'Grady, perhaps your relatives owned a few head of the world's smallest purebred breed of cattle. Originating in Ireland, Irish

Dexter Cattle have made the jump across the ocean to America and into the hearts of their owners. According to information from the American Dexter Cattle Association (ADCA), based in Prairie Home, Mo., early Dexter cattle were selected  
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## Producers Gather Decision-Making Tools At Conference

**DAVE LEFEVER**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
ALLENTOWN (Lehigh Co.) — Grain producers at a marketing conference here Tuesday heard strategies to help them make the most out of corn and soybean selling.

They also listened to a long-range weather forecast calling for "normal" conditions this year.

About 70 people attended the conference sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Grain Producers Association.

While corn usage in the U.S. has been increasing, generally good growing conditions across the country have kept supplies up since the mid-1990s, said Iowa market analyst Scott Davis.

"For the last six years, we've nailed trendline corn yields," Davis said.

Since 1998, a "captive" corn market has barely strayed out of the \$1.85 to \$2.35 per bushel trading range, \$0.40 to \$0.45 cheaper than it should be ac-

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## Cattle Feeders Gather In Lancaster This Week

**MICHELLE KUNJAPPU**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — More than 230 cattle producers gathered at the Farm and Home Center in Lancaster Tuesday for Cattle Feeder's Day.

The day included agricultural economy forecasts, a report on a survey of area cattle feeders, presentations about custom

cattle feeding, and information from a Smithfield Beef Enterprises representative.

More information about the packer's plans is in an article on page A39.

### Economy

Lou Moore, Penn State extension ag economist, spoke about what may be on the horizon for

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## Convention Honors Region's Top Growers

**MICHELLE KUNJAPPU**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
HERSHEY (Lancaster Co.) — About 300 industry representatives and government officials from several Mid-Atlantic states attended the annual fruit and vegetable growers dinner Tuesday evening.

After dinner, Sam Hayes, Jr., secretary of agriculture, remarked that "as important as the military is, so too is agriculture. One of the great strategic strengths of America is agriculture. To sustain and support our agriculture is one of the things for you and I to live independently and without dependence on other nations.

"I hope that there will never be a day that we say that it's no longer possible for us to feed ourselves as a nation. We cannot push agriculture from our shores.

"We are bound together voca-  
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Henry and Therese Frecon, center, won the 2001 Outstanding Grower Award at the annual banquet. They are joined by former Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association president Brooks Way, left, and Glenn Shaw, president of the State Horticulture Association of Pennsylvania, right. Photo by Michelle Kunjappu

## Keystone Pork Expo Feb. 5 At Expo Center

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — The 24th annual Keystone Pork Expo will take place Tuesday, Feb. 5, here at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center.

Along with educational seminars, this year's event will have one of its largest trade shows ever with 44 exhibitors.

Coinciding with the expo, the Keystone Pork Bowl and Junior Speaking Contests will take place at the Lebanon extension

office, adjacent to the main buildings.

Ken Kephart, Penn State professor of animal science, will preside over the program which will begin at 10:15 a.m.

The featured speaker for this year's expo will be Dr. Roy Schultz, a consulting veterinarian from Avoca, Iowa, who will address sow mortality and ileitis. Having been a swine practitioner for more than 40

years, he will be providing practical as well as up-to-date technical knowledge pertaining to swine health.

Robert Mikesell, Penn State senior extension associate, will provide Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) training for producers who need initial instruction or recertification.

Lou Moore, Penn State professor of agricultural economics

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Getting a head start on pig farming are these cousins, Micah Martin, 5, left, son of Delvin and Bonita Martin, and Josiah Martin, 4, son of Daryl and Andrea Martin. Turn to page B10 to read more about these farm helpers.