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# Lancaster Farming

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## Storybook Exhibit Showcases Farm Life History In Southwestern Pa.



The Somerset Historical Center, located off Rt. 601 north of Somerset on Rt. 985, looks much like a big red barn to complement the farming history exhibit it houses on the inside. The center, along with its nonprofit entity, the Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County, works to preserve the history of southwestern Pennsylvanian agriculture in a state-run facility. Photo by Sandra Lepley, Somerset Co. correspondent

**SANDRA LEPLEY**  
Somerset Co. Correspondent  
**SOMERSET (Somerset Co.)**  
— The history of farming in southwestern Pennsylvania is showcased through a unique ex-

hibit called "Patterns On The Land: Farming In Southwestern Pennsylvania," which opened late last summer as a full-scale

(Turn to Page A30)



The thresher and farming steam engine are impressive artifacts in a farming exhibit at the Somerset Historical Center. Vernon Berkey, president of Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County, left, Charlie Fox (in back), administrator at the center, and Barbara Black, curator, look over some of the equipment. Photo by Sandra Lepley, Somerset Co. correspondent

## Hinton Named Outstanding Young Farmer At Virginia Convention

**GAY BROWNLEE**  
Virginia Correspondent  
**WYTHEVILLE (Wythe County, Va.)** — Jeffrey Hinton of Heathsville was named Vir-

ginia's Outstanding Young Farmer recently during the 52nd Annual Convention of the Young Farmers of Virginia and 10th Annual Convention of the

Virginia FFA Alumni at the Holiday Inn. Hinton, his dad, James, and late brother, Jimmy in 1997 established a corporation comprised of the 188-acre family farm in Lara and other

land the brothers had begun to invest in back in 1986. Their discipline and patience in the years following their high school graduation was owing to their shared childhood dream to be full-time farmers, like their

dad and granddad. Every dollar they earned was invested, along with plenty of muscle, and eventually the tally was 750 acres for harvesting corn, soybeans, wheat, and barley.

(Turn to Page A27)

## Senate Farm Bill Heads To Joint Conference Economist Explains Unique Northeast Dairy Program

**DAVE LEFEVER**  
Lancaster Farming Staff

**UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.)** — The U.S. Senate passed their version of the new Farm Bill last week by a vote of 58-40.

The House Ag Committee and the Senate Ag Committee will form a conference committee to negotiate the differences in the Senate bill and the House version passed last fall.

The Senate bill contains a dairy title that would provide support for dairy producers in 12 northeast dairy states including Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia.

According to the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), the program would provide dairy producers in those states with a payment whenever the monthly Class I (fluid milk) price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight.

Ken Bailey, Penn State dairy economist, recently analyzed the provision and the effect it may have on the region's dairy producers. While a relatively small amount of Farm Bill funds go to dairy programs nationwide, this

new provision is significant, according to Bailey.

"It's huge," he said. Targeted to dairy farms with about 400 cows or less, the measure would provide significant payments to farmers in the absence of a Northeast interstate dairy compact removed from Farm Bill legislation last year.

The program is less controversial than an interstate compact, and the benefit to northeast producers would likely be about equal to that provided by a compact, according to Bailey.

"One of its biggest advantages is that it's not a compact,"

Bailey said. "The compact was extremely controversial."

Under the new Farm Bill provision, payment levels and interstate trade would be regulated by Congress instead of a panel of board members as the interstate compact would have done.

"You're not turning pricing over to a citizen's panel," Bailey said.

The new program will also use taxpayer dollars instead of milk processor monies, as would have resulted from an interstate compact.

The Northeast Dairy Program will likely have less effect than a

(Turn to Page A31)

## MADMC Conference Draws 400

**MICHELLE KUNJAPPU**  
Lancaster Farming Staff

**YORK (York Co.)** — From towering brick buildings in the center of the city, to roadside stands, to family-run farm stores, producers have used various venues to market their wares.

This week a conference helped to disseminate ideas and information for farmers interested in marketing directly to consumers.

The Mid Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference (MADMC),

hosted by the Pennsylvania Retail Farm Market Association, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Penn State Cooperative Extension, is actually a joint effort of these organizations in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Virginia, besides Pennsylvania. The event attracted 400 participants from across the U.S.

Preconference workshops included a seminar at the York Central Market House, a fruit basket seminar, a community

(Turn to Page A28)

Milk Quality  
Manure Management  
News, Views and More

Lancaster Farming's quarterly exclusive booklet, Dairy Plus, begins its 2002 season this issue, devoted to manure management. Special features include a story about a dairy family who installed a manure system in Bangor, nutrient management concerns and the future of state and federal policy, manure management guidelines, improving milk quality, managing odors, and an update on a calf cloning project.