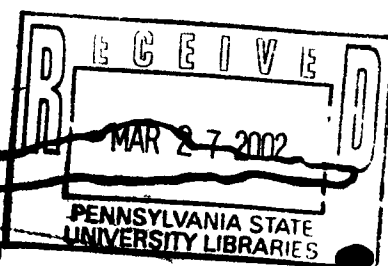


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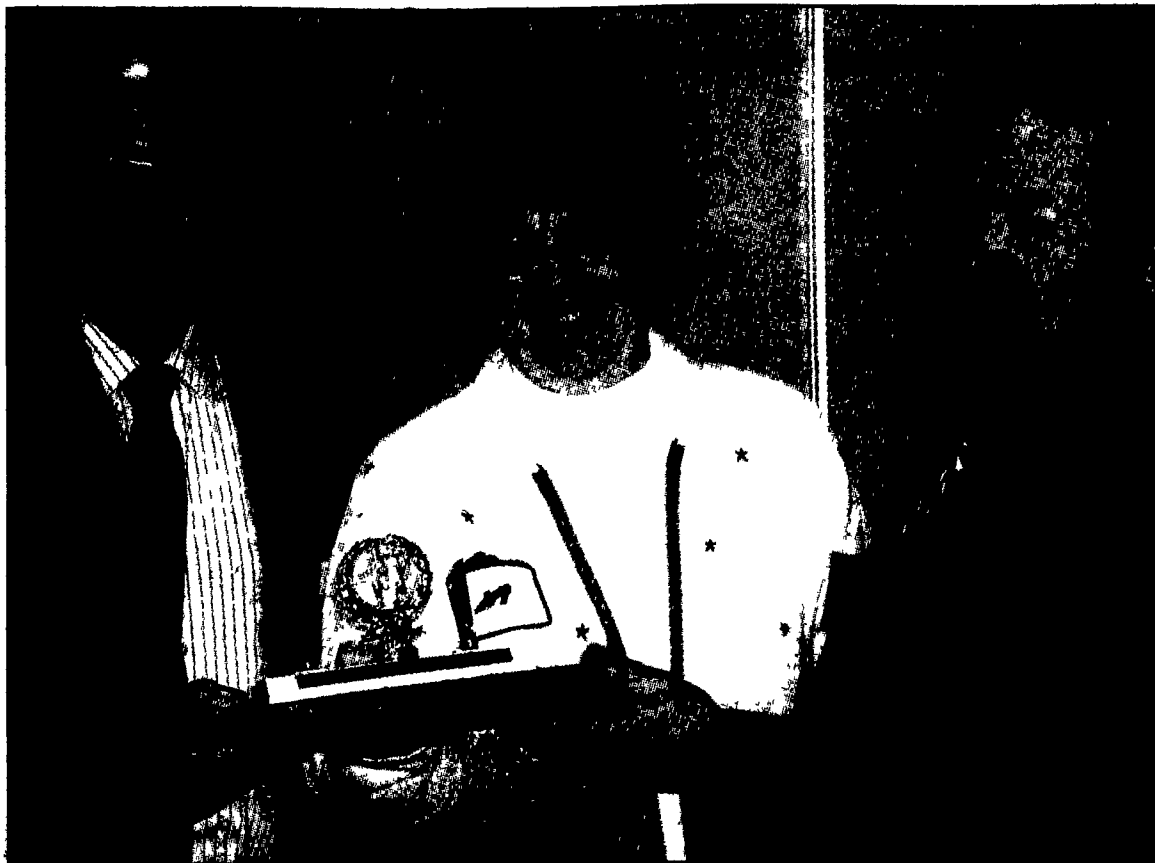
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Five Sections

Saturday, March 9, 2002

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Janet, center, and Dave Hileman, right, Blair County, were honored with the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council's Special Award Wednesday evening in Grantville. Presenting the award is outgoing president Duane Pysher. Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

Conference Honors Successful Producers

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor

GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — One large-scale dairy producer/grazier put it this way for about 200 producers and agribusiness people Wednesday:

Your farm is "almost like an artistic canvas," said Charlie Opitz, dairy producer from Mineral Point, Wis. "The species you work with are your paint. And the cows are your paintbrush."

Opitz spoke about what many graziers recognize as "grass fever," he said. "Once you catch it, it'll stay with you until you're dead."

Opitz spoke Wednesday morning at the beginning of the two-day 2002 Pennsylvania Grazing and Forage Conference at the Grantville Holiday Inn. The conference is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council (PFGC) and the Penn State Grazing Research and Education Center.

Opitz, whose farm partner-

ship pastures 1,200 cows, noted his family began farming in 1832 near Milwaukee, Wis. Through the years, the farm moved north to Saukville, Wis., with additional expansion. In 1979 his wife Dorothy and Mark, Janis, and Jenni moved to the Mineral Point Farm.

Major advancements occurred in 1978, 1986, and 1991, increasing the farm size, going back to pasture again with milk cows, and additional acreage. Now, the farm includes about 1,400 acres, including a 900-cow freestall in the middle of 600 acres.

In 1993 the farm partnership purchased a double-27 swing parlor in the middle of an 800-acre parcel. The parlor, including everything except labor, cost \$140,000.

Dairy herd averages are 15,000 pounds per cow at 3.4 percent protein and 3.8-4.2 butterfat.

The farm milks Holstein/Jersey crossbreds. Opitz said he

liked using Jerseys because of improved heat tolerance, cold tolerance, and "better legs," he said.

Opitz provided details of his pasture maintenance. He said that between two to four times per year, nitrogen is applied to improve feed quality. The hay doesn't move more than 500 feet

(Turn to Page A20)

Farm Bureau President To Visit Lehigh Valley Holden Appointed To Farm Bill Committee

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff
ALLENTOWN (Lehigh Co.) — American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman will speak at a meeting hosted by the southeast region of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau here March 16.

Stallman will breakfast with the Lehigh Valley Grain Marketing Club, then join in a tour of local ag operations including a greenhouse, a mushroom facility, and a dairy farm.

At the evening banquet, Stallman's talk will focus on the Farm Bill and agriculture trade policy, according to American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) director of communications Bill Eckmann.

U.S. House and Senate conferees were recently selected to negotiate differences between the Senate bill passed in February and a House version passed last fall.

Tim Holden, representative

(Turn to Page A23)

Nutrient Management Board: Keep Regulations Simple

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Phosphorus management, regulation of exported manure, and conservation planning were key issues discussed at a meeting of the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Advisory Board here recently.

Doug Goodlander, nutrient management director of the State Conservation Commission (SCC), presented the board with a list of "possible refinements" to the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Act scheduled for revision and legislative review later this year.

The group covered six of 20 agenda items during the six-

hour meeting.

"Simplify" was one of the chief requests made regarding the proposed changes.

Board members and others at the meeting expressed concerns about regulations becoming overly burdensome for farmers and agents.

A proposal that would require "exported" manure to be shipped only to farms with an approved nutrient management plan (NMP) or importer plan would seriously hamper the distribution of manure, according to various board members.

Noting that the board continues to support certification of manure haulers, Goodlander

(Turn to Page A24)

Public Perceptions Force Changes In Legislation, Poultry Industry

LOU ANN GOOD
Food And Family
Features Editor

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Competition for poultry producers used to mean vying for customers with other producers, but today, competition includes consumer groups and government agencies demands, said Dr. Gregory Martin, extension multi-county poultry specialist.

Martin was one of the many professionals speaking at Poul-

try Progress Day conducted at the Farm and Home Center, Thursday.

Producers are facing discrimination in trade and in the U.S., Ken Kleppen said. In his job to analyze government regulations and reduce confusion for producers, Kleppen said an increasing amount of regulations and concerns are against the industry because of unfair perceptions.

Science used to be the gauge

(Turn to Page A38)



Specialty crops and herbs are in focus with *Grower & Marketer* this issue. Eric Haggber, Akron, provides details about grafting. He points to the grafting wax area that will yield a new variety of apple. The section also includes news from the New Jersey Vegetable Growers and Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable conventions.

Photo by Michelle Kunjappu