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Lancaster Farming

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A young farmer directs a six-horse team near the corner of Farmersville Road and Groffdale Church Road near Leola Tuesday afternoon. Temperatures were in the 60s, suitable for working the ground and getting it warm for planting. According to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service, for the week ending March 31, there were 2.1 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 6 percent very short, 22 percent short, 49 percent adequate, and 23 percent surplus. Farm activities included spring plowing, planting oats, fixing fences, etc. Some areas around the commonwealth received generous amounts of rain but not enough to cover the drought conditions from last year. Spring plowing was 26 percent complete, 19 percent ahead of the previous year and 18 percent ahead of the 5-year average. Ten percent of the oat acreage has been planted, 6 percent more than the 5-year average. Corn and soybean planting have not started at this time. Wheat, barley, and rye were starting to green up.

Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

Farm Bureau To Meet With Legislators

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — An estimated 400 farmers from across the state will travel to Harrisburg Monday, April 8, to meet with lawmakers on issues important to Pennsylvania agriculture.

The farmers are members of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) participating in the organization's annual Harrisburg Legislative Conference. PFB is a voluntary organization representing more than 28,000 farm and rural families in 54 local units.

In addition to meeting with legislators, the farmers will be attending an Agriculture Unity Rally co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Grange and PennAg Industries Association in the Capitol Rotunda at 3 p.m. The conference concludes with a banquet at 6:30 p.m. to which legislators are invited at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers. Guy Donaldson, PFB president, will speak at the banquet.

Issues the Farm Bureau members will be discussing with their

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NFU President To Visit Jefferson County

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff
BROOKVILLE (Jefferson Co.) — Leland Swenson, former president of the National Farmers Union (NFU), will speak at a banquet hosted by a local branch of the union here April 9.

Swenson served 14 years as NFU president, recently turning the post over to Dave Frederickson of Minnesota.

Rita Shaffer of the Jefferson/Clearfield/Clarion chapter of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union said that Swenson will likely talk about the importance of emerging farm policy to area farmers.

The Farm Bill is being negotiated by a joint House and Senate conference committee in Washington, with a final version expected sometime this month.

A main goal of the local Farmer's Union is to inform both farmers and consumers about agricultural issues, according to Shaffer.

"We're trying to make people aware of what's going on in the Farm Bill," she said.

Shaffer and husband, Wayne, milk about 60 Holsteins and Jerseys near Brookville. Their two grown children, Kelly and Jed,

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New Bolton Center Dedicates Aquaculture Lab

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff
KENNETT SQUARE (Chester Co.) — Approximately 100 legislators, faculty, staff, and board of overseers of New Bolton Center, along with aquaculture industry representatives gathered to dedicate the Fairchild Aquaculture Laboratory at New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, Wednesday afternoon.

Christine Connelly, chair, board of overseers, said that the building dedication was exciting because "it brings together everybody who was instrumental in the project."

Connelly thanked the leader-

ship and "enthusiastic" donor Robert Fairchild, who is an avid fisherman. "I hope God blesses you, that you catch the big one this season," she said.

According to Alan Kelly, dean of the school of veterinary medicine, the lab is also the result of the work of Leon Weiss, profes-

sor and laboratory head of the new facility. Weiss helped to advance "the belief that fish farming is important and that fish are veterinary animals," he said. Weiss has also played a critical role in forming the school's internationally-recognized

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Holstein Spring Show A Success



Winning lineup at the 49th Pennsylvania Holstein Association Spring Show, from left, LeAnn Witmer, Cumberland County dairy princess; Sara Jennings, Pennsylvania alternate dairy princess; Dusty Schirm, for H. Edwin Thompson, reserve grand champion; Scott Walton, grand champion; Michael Stiles, judge; and Becky Mowrer, Pennsylvania dairy princess. See story page A29.

Photo by Dave Lefever

A Reference Guide To Animal Health And Housing

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In Support of the Livestock Industry

Lancaster Farming's annual booklet, *A Reference Guide To Animal Health and Housing*, is included this issue. The booklet includes articles on heat stress abatement in the summer months, hoof trimming guidelines, a look into a special-design milking parlor, heifer contracting, and a lambing story.

Let's 'Spring Ahead'

With the arrival of spring comes Daylight Saving Time, providing additional hours of daylight for farmers.

It's time to "spring ahead" to Daylight Saving Time, which begins tomorrow. We "spring ahead" one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday, April 7.

So turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed tonight. Remember, animal feeding and milking schedules need to be adjusted accordingly.