

Lancaster Farming

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State FFA President's Roots Run Deep In Agriculture

SANDRA LEPLEY
Somerset Co. Correspondent
BERLIN (Somerset Co.) — "I always knew I wanted to be a state officer," said David Bittner, Berlin, Somerset County, referring to his new role as FFA president.

A recent graduate of Berlin Brothersvalley High School, Bittner confidently looks forward to this year as a way to promote agriculture and FFA through this prestigious office.
"I stayed as active as I could

this past year in order to gain experience for this position," said Bittner, who became president after competing alongside 19 other candidates in seven rounds
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David Bittner, Berlin, has stepped into the role of state FFA president. He was named president after seven rounds of interviews during FFA State Activities Week at Penn State. Further coverage of the week begins on page B13. Bittner is pictured with a Brown Swiss calf, part of the family's herd of Holsteins, Brown Swiss, Jerseys, and Guerneys. Photo by Sandra Lepley, Somerset County Correspondent

Farm Bill Discussed At Ag Issues Forum

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff
MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — "I've always believed in the ability of citizens to come together, work together, and design a program to improve our lives. I still

feel that way after working on these farm bills," said Tom Hebert, keynote speaker at Thursday's Agricultural Issues Forum conducted at Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim.
Approximately 60 agribusiness

representatives and producers gathered to learn more about the Farm Bill.
Tom Hebert, partner in agriculture lobbying firm,
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Myron Martin, Knoxville, Md., looks over grazing heifers while milking cows feed and loaf in the freestall barn above. Martin and his family have combined intensive grazing with a flexible total-mixed-ration feeding approach to boost profits and cut labor on their farm. Read about the Martin's operation in this week's Foraging Around section. Photo by Dave Lefever



Farm Show 2003 Exhibitor Spotlight

Exclusive to Lancaster Farming

This is the first in a series of articles spotlighting businesses that will exhibit their products and services at the 2003 Pennsylvania Farm Show.
CARLISLE (Cumberland Co.) — Cummings and Bricker, Inc., is a wholesale distributor of farm machinery, specializing in various kinds of haymaking equipment. The company serves about 1,200 dealers from Maine to South Carolina and as far west as Indiana.
Jim Cummings and his brother, Eugene, own and manage the company, first established by

their father in Batavia, N.Y., in 1961. Jim Cummings opened the Carlisle distribution facility in 1978, and Eugene continues to manage the operation in Batavia.
The company imports farm equipment from various countries, including Canada, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. About 75 percent of that machinery ends up on dairy operations, according to Jim Cummings.
While business has been "very good," Cummings said the com-
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U.S. Court Of Appeals Rules That Checkoff Continue

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Wednesday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit granted a request for stay that allows the beef promotion program to continue without interruption while the appeal is pending, according to the USDA.
A June 21 decision by a District Court in South Dakota ruled that the Beef Promotion and Research Act is unconstitutional and directed that the collection of assessments cease on July 15.
However, the stay postpones implementation of the South Dakota decision and the beef promotion and research program will continue to operate and conduct operations as normal during

the pendency of the appeal. This stay was requested by the Department of Justice on behalf of USDA.
In accordance with this court order, the beef promotion and research program will remain in effect and beef producers and importers must continue to pay beef checkoff assessments.
Producers and importers who fail to pay the assessment may be subject to late payment charges and civil penalties up to \$5,500 per violation.
For more information about these developments, see page A26.



These newly-hatched ducklings are part of Joe Jurgielewicz & Son Duck Farm, a supplier for Oriental markets in several major East Coast cities. Read about the operation on page B6. Photo by Michelle Kunjappu