

Agriculture Moves Ahead In 2002

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U.S. Ag Secretary Ann Veneman visited Pennsylvania as part of a several-state tour.

In South Dakota, a judge ruled the beef checkoff unconstitutional.

July

USDA began collecting lamb checkoff assessments at 30 cents per head.

A new "Consumers' Guide to Pennsylvania Farm markets" became available to help consumers find Pennsylvania produce.

The U.S. Court of Appeals rules that the beef checkoff continue.

Somerset farmers Bill And Lori Arnold become part of a drama as their farm becomes the site of the Quecreek Mine rescue.

August

Dennis Grumbine, Farm Show director, announced that all of the slots on the complex's 175,000-square-foot commercial exhibition floor are sold.

Dairy farmers start signing up for market loss payments under the new Farm Bill.

Also the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board voted to uphold the commonwealth's \$1.65 per hundredweight over-order premium paid to producers.

Gubernatorial candidates Mike Fisher and Ed Rendell addressed an ag progress luncheon. The agriculture community is

awaiting changes following Rendell's election.

The drought deepens until it is declared the worst since the Dust Bowl years of the 1930s.

September

Hog prices reached lowest levels since November 1998.

The Senate voted \$6 billion in drought relief.

Senate Bill 1413 continued to be in the spotlight as producers seek to deal with townships passing anti-agriculture ordinances.

Even amidst low milk prices and high feed costs, the 39th All-American Dairy Show broke records, topping other years as about 3,300 entries of 630 exhibitors from 24 states and provinces come to the show.

October

Lancaster County came to the top of a nationwide list as it celebrated more than 51,000 acres preserved through combined efforts.

Because of the drought, USDA declared disaster for 54 counties. To qualify for federal disaster assistance, farmers must have realized at least a 30 percent loss for a single crop.

Pennsylvania's Beef Quality Assurance commission announces an upcoming label that designates the beef as coming from a Pennsylvania producer certified in the Beef Quality Assurance program.



The thirsty summer was followed by a soggy fall. This autumn scene was taken in Penn State area. Photo by Michelle Kunjappu

Virginia hosts the World Percheron Congress America 2002, awarding honors in halter, hitch farm, amateur, and cross-bred classes.

November

Terry Stokes, CEO of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, visited Pennsylvania to discuss issues with beef producers.

The Virginia 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Team won the national championship at

NAILE.

December

Senate Bill 1413 expired as Pennsylvania legislatures ended its term without a final vote.

Farm Show won four awards from the International Association of Fairs and Expositions.

More than 1,000 people showed up to watch the ribbon-cutting ceremony after the \$86 million renovation of the Farm Show Complex.

Lancaster Farming Activities

Here at the newspaper, the challenging, exciting year served to give our 46-year-old paper plenty to report on. A few of the highlights include:

This summer the paper included 126 markets in section A, an all-time high number.

Staff reporters covered new areas such as Washington, D.C., Delaware State Fair, Centre County Grange Fair, and more extensive coverage in New Jersey and Virginia, among other areas.

Another first was the production of a several-page daily paper circulated at the National Holstein Convention, Atlantic City, N.J.

Lancaster Farming reporters took color pictures and wrote articles for the weeklong event.

"Basically Farming," written by various extension agents, came out in June to help support beginning farmers.

In addition, Marion Bowlan began writing the "New Farmer, New Generation" column for beginning farmers early in 2002.

To gear up for the Farm Show, in July the paper introduced the "Farm Show Spotlight" articles that featured pictures and interviews with Farm Show exhibitors.

Also for the Farm Show, the "Pennsylvania Farm Show Showcase" special section was printed in December for 2003's event.

Agriculture Secretary Samuel Hayes began the "Building for the Future" column to keep readers updated about Farm Show renovations in the May 4 issue.

In October, Lancaster Farming debuted "Boarder and Trainer," a special section focused exclusively on the equine industry.

Along with that debut came "DelVal Bits," a column about the equine industry supplied by staff at Delaware Valley College.

Also in October the paper turned its attention to the beef industry throughout the month, with on-farm features and other articles designed to highlight the beef business.

Other changes included an expansion from Dairy Plus to four times a year.

In section B, the dairy recipe contest included record numbers of entries.

The Antiques Center continues to attract dedicated readers. The "You Ask, You Answer" and "Cooks Question" columns also continue to offer help to those who write in to the paper.

Thank you for your readership, and, in many cases, friendship.

The staff here at Lancaster Farming appreciates the hard-working agriculture community. We are thankful to be able to report on such an interesting industry made up of such admirable people.



Roundup, for example. As effective as Roundup® is for soybeans, you should know more before you use it on your corn. Using it every year, weed resistance could become an issue. For some growers it already has. The answer? If you plant RR™ beans, plant non-RR corn hybrids and use a non-glyphosate herbicide with a different mode of action, such as Bicep II MAGNUM®. To get the latest university research on glyphosate weed resistance, visit www.weedresistance.com.

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