



During these winter months, Arden Landis's entire herd feeds on a transition diet of hay until calving in time for the spring flush of grass. This is Landis's first year as a seasonal dairyman.

A Search For 'True Security'

PASA Speaker Calls For Local Food, Local Decisions

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The security of our food supply today depends on farming and distribution methods that are driven by a highly unstable international oil trade.

That is not true security, according to Mark Ritchie, keynote speaker at the annual Farming for the Future conference put on by the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA).

"Local Food Systems, Local Decisions In Search Of True Security" was the theme of the two-day event.

Ritchie outlined how the U.S. relies almost entirely on petroleum to grow and distribute food within an industrialized system, and how this dependence has led our country to a place of vulnerability.

But Ritchie also spoke about his vision of independent farmers and entrepreneurs reclaiming the

food supply and "renewing the countryside" through methods of locally-based production, marketing, and distribution. Those things are already happening across the U.S., Ritchie said, with the work of PASA serving as an example.

About 1,200 people attended the conference, including farmers and others interested in sustainable farming and food supplies. Guests included Dennis Wolff, the new Pennsylvania secretary of agriculture; Robert Steele, Penn State dean of agriculture; and Cheryl Tevis, farm issues editor at Successful Farming Magazine.

Ritchie is president of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and serves on the board of the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture. A native of



Mark Ritchie
Georgia, Ritchie has spent more than 30 years in the global policy-making arena, primarily in the areas of agriculture, natural re-
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'Life Is Good'

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff
QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — Arden Landis and his family have been running a grass-based dairy near Kirkwood for seven years. Innovation has

been the guide on the farm, with Landis constantly trying more efficient and profitable ways to manage. This year marks another big change on the operation, and

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Junior Holstein Members Win Scholarships

BETHLEHEM (Lehigh Co.) — The Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Association presented numerous awards at their convention here last week. Youth were recognized for various achievements, including public speaking, progressive breeding, dairy bowl excellence, and production records.

Four members were selected to receive \$1,000 scholarships for
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Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Members receiving scholarships are, from left, Cole McLaughlin, Angela Adams, Jodi Crawford, and Peter Vanco. Joining them is Sheryl Vanco, scholarship committee chairperson.

It's Show Time

New York Farm Show Upcoming

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Yes, it's show time in New York. The 18th annual New York Farm Show will be conducted February 20-22, at the New York State Fairgrounds. The Northeast's largest indoor farm show has grown to be more than five times its original size.

The show features new and practical equipment, services, and products for visitors. More

than 400 exhibitors will cover more than 215,000 square feet.

At the New York Farm Show farmers can shop, compare, and buy the latest developments in the agriculture industry as well as ask the experts about the latest practices and efficiencies.

The experienced folks can reflect on the past and enjoy the
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Li'l Miss Dairy Princess Valerie Zuck, Lebanon, hands out cow erasers at the Dairy and Silage Producer Family Day, Tuesday, Lebanon Valley Expo Center. Turn to pages B6 and B10 to read about the many different workshops offered to family members. Photo by Lou Ann Good, food and family features editor

Beverages, Brazil, And Farm Bill At Grain Seminar

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff
GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — Even though snow still has an icy grip on Pennsylvania, producers couldn't help thinking about spring planting and next year's crop as they gathered at the Holiday Inn in Grantville for the 2003 Corn and Soybean Conference.

Top placings in the classes are in a related story on page A24.

More than 100 producers and industry representatives attended the event sponsored by the Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association, the Pennsylvania Soybean Board, and Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Dr. Peter Bordi, assistant professor, School of Hotel, Restaurant, and Recreation Management, Penn State, discussed a soy recovery drink developed on funds from Pennsylvania Soybean Promotion Board grant.

After the product was developed and tested (a process that
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A Growing Dairy Workforce

Expansion Challenges

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Section E

This week's edition of Dairy Plus features a growing workforce and other dairy expansion topics.