

Life Sci

# Lancaster Farming

Vol. 48 No. 20 www.lancasterfarming.com Five Sections Saturday, May 10, 2003 \$36.00 Per Year \$1.00 Per Copy

## Well-Drilling Plan Ignores Ag Security Area Farmer Opposes Township Proposal

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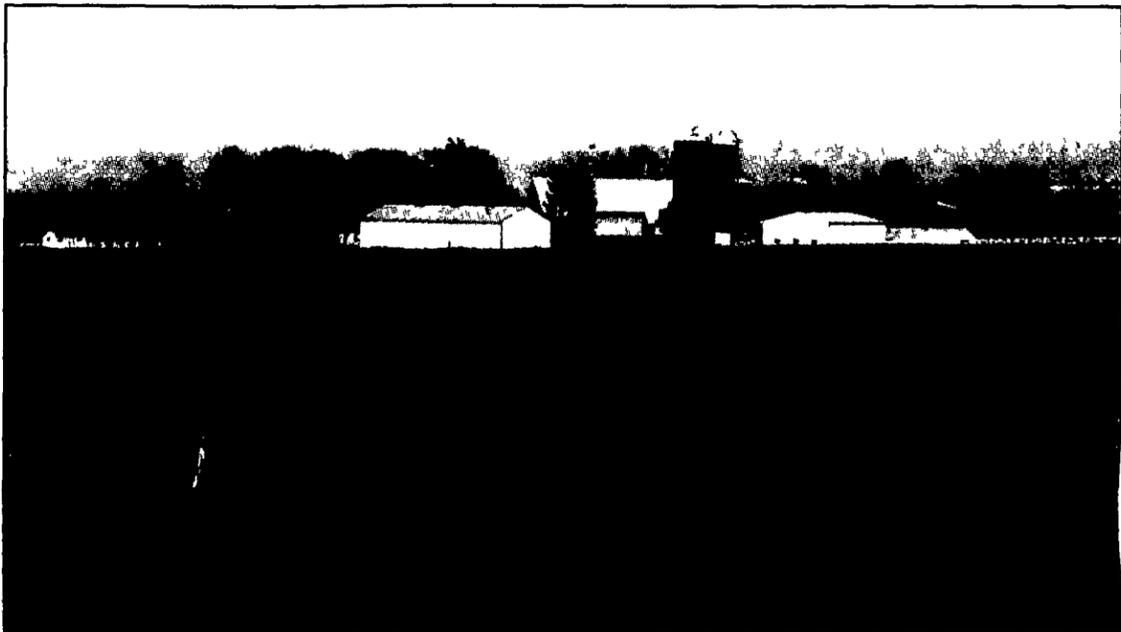
EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — A local township's plans to drill a well on a dairy farm are unlawful, according to a Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) attorney.

Paul B. Zimmerman and his wife Lena are owners of the dairy farm near Ephrata where the drilling site for a test well has been marked. The Zimmermans' son, Paul Jr., manages the herd of 65 cows known as Cocalico Holsteins on the farm.

The Zimmerman family owns about 50 acres of cropland, plus pastureland and land on which buildings are situated.

If the proposed test well is judged successful and put into

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Flags mark the spot where the East Cocalico Township Water and Sewer Authority plans to drill a well in this alfalfa field on the Paul B. Zimmerman farm near Ephrata. The farm is part of 500 acres on eight farms in the township that applied for Ag Security Area protection in 2000. According to John Bell, attorney with the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, the Ag Security Area was automatically approved by law 180 days after the application. Photo by Dave Lefever

## Landisville Research Farm Hires New Manager

DAVE LEFEVER  
Lancaster Farming Staff

LANDISVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — Pennsylvania native Dr. Dave Johnson has returned to his home state to manage Penn State's Southeastern Research and Extension Center in Landisville.

Johnson will serve as scientist in charge and manager at the center, filling the position left by John Yocum on his recent retirement. Yocum served 41 years at the research farm.

A Delaware County native, Johnson first developed an interest in agriculture as a boy, spending summers on the Westmoreland County dairy farm of his grandfather, Calvin Pollins.

Johnson was graduated from Penn State with a bachelor's degree in agronomy in 1984. He went on to earn a doctorate at the University of Arkansas in 1992.

After completing his university education, Johnson went to work developing herbicides for American Cyanamid, now BASF, a multinational chemical firm. He was employed with the company for 10 years before accepting the position at Landisville.

Johnson is experienced in both the laboratory and the field. He spent his first four years with American Cyanamid in its New Jersey laboratories, then traveled to Minnesota to perform research in the field for six years. His focus has been on controlling weeds in row crops.

Johnson said this season's re-

search at Landisville will include working with corn that has been genetically altered with a Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) gene to control corn rootworm. While Bt corn targeted at European corn borer has been on the market since 1996, Bt corn for rootworm was only recently registered by Monsanto.

According to Matt Antos, a Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association director and Pioneer representative, much remains to

be seen about the overall benefits of Bt corn for rootworm.

While the "efficacy looks outstanding" for the new corn, Antos said there are still questions about income advantages, how hybrids will perform with the gene, and what refuge requirements will be necessary for the new genetically engineered corn.

For Bt corn designed to control

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Dave Johnson, right, is the new manager at the Penn State's Southeastern Research and Extension Center in Landisville. John Yocum, left, served there for 41 years and is retiring. Photo by Dave Lefever

## Boarder and Trainer

SECTION 2 SATURDAY MAY 10, 2003



### Local Farmers Feed World-Class Horses At Hanover Shoe Farms

DAVE LEFEVER  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
HANOVER (Adams Co.) — Tracing its roots to the west of Hanover, Pa., can't miss the horse pastures about 3,000 acres with a cloud by some 50 miles of board fence.  
For hundreds of undisturbed by domestic, in a lush, young forest and a number of stud stallions have their home here.  
Feeding and bedding, the horses take 140 tons of hay and 100 tons of straw a year. All of this is purchased from local farms. The horses also receive about 4,000 bushels of corn and 750 tons of protein supplement per year.  
Hanover Shoe Farms, Ltd. is a 100-acre horse farm and stud farm. That all is up to a huge investment of \$10 million in the area.  
According to Steve Arantz, president and manager of Hanover Shoe Farms, the farm is a family business. Steve is the son of the founder, Harry Arantz, who started the farm in 1950.  
Arantz and his wife, Mary, have four children and 12 grandchildren. Steve is the youngest of the children and is currently a veterinarian in the area. He is also a member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and the American Quarter Horse Association.  
Steve Arantz of Littlestown, right, delivers about 120,000 bales of hay and straw per year to Hanover Shoe Farms. Arantz, along with two brothers and five other family members, also delivers hay from about 25 other farms in the area. Here Steve Arantz helps Arantz unload bales of timothy. Photo by Dave Lefever

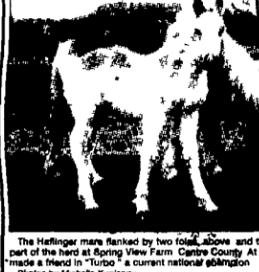
Besides catch riding for other owners, Jocelyn Martin will compete with her own mount, Bodine, a warmblood crossbred in hunter competition this year at Devon. Photo by Michele Kurjappo

### Getting to Devon — From The Rider's Perspective

MICHELLE KURJAPPO  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
DEVON (Lancaster Co.) — It's a beautiful day at the Devon Horse Show. The sun is shining, the flowers are in bloom, and the air is filled with the excitement of the show. I'm here to share my perspective on what it's like to be a rider at the Devon Horse Show.

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### Hafingers: All-Around Family Pony In A Pretty Package



A standardized mare with her day old foal out in a paddock at Hanover Shoe Farms.

The Hafinger mare flanked by two foals, above, and the stallion pictured at right are part of the herd at Spring View Farm, Centre County. At right Abraham Aliebach 3 has made a friend in "Turbo" a current national champion. Photo by Michele Kurjappo

MICHELLE KURJAPPO  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
HAFINGTON (Centre Co.) — The perfect blend of looking around the pasture, you'll like on all Belgians, but as these babies grow to full stature, they reveal that they are different breed altogether. Although they are fairly new arrivals to the U.S., the honey-colored Hafinger ponies are already making a name for themselves. The remarkable breed is registered in the American Quarter Horse Association. It is suitable for their unique (Turn to Page E10)

Lancaster Farming's Boarder & Trainer section is included this issue. The horse section provides a preview of the Devon Horse Show, updates on the West Nile virus, a breed profile, and a look at a horse farm's impact on the local agri-industry.

## Senate Confirms Wolff As Ag Secretary

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Early this week, Gov. Edward G. Rendell commended the Pennsylvania State Senate for confirming Dennis C. Wolff as agriculture secretary.

"Dennis brings a lifetime of agriculture and business experience to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture," Rendell said. "He is an asset to our agricultural community and is committed to the pursuit of economic development and education as we strive to build a new Pennsylvania."

"Agriculture is vital to Pennsylvania's economy, and I am honored and excited to serve as

the secretary of agriculture," Wolff said. "I have always been interested in public service and being an advocate for agriculture. It's definitely beneficial to have been on the receiving end of programs and regulations for a number of years, because I have a greater understanding of how some of these programs actually impact the rural community."

Wolff said agriculture faces many challenges in the 21st century. However, he said he is confident that, with the assistance of the agriculture community, Pennsylvania General Assembly,

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### STOP Group Gains Ground Against Property Tax

DAVE LEFEVER  
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Decrying property taxes as harmful and unfair, a group called STOP (Stop Taxing Our Property) has gathered 87,000 signatures and written a proposal to abolish taxes on homesteads in Pennsylvania.

This week, nine state senators, (Turn to Page A31)

### Inside The Farmer

- ✓ New price information for hogs, other commodities page A15 and elsewhere this issue.
- ✓ New Ag Economic Opportunities page A40.
- ✓ Cornell University News page A36.
- ✓ Focus On Dairy Forum page A28.