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Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Raechel Kilgore crisscrosses the state promoting the dairy industry. The Kilgores are typical of similar farm families who will be featured in our June Dairy Issue next week. Included will be family farm features, breed and association news and highlights, and other great reading for our dairy families. Turn to page B2 for more about the Kilgores, who have a long history of involvement in community and farm leadership activities.



Pictured is Blair Minnich, Anville, leading yearling "Iron Princess," one of his racing string. One of Minnich's mares has been in the spotlight lately as her son, Peace Rules, has gained national recognition. See story page A19. Photo by Michelle Kunjappu

Monsours Receive First Pa. Business/Agricultural Loan

LINDA WILLIAMS
Bedford Co. Correspondent
BEDFORD (Bedford Co.) — Jack and Kathy Monsour, Bedford, have received the first agriculture-related business loan in Pennsylvania.

Longtime sheep farmers in the rolling-hilled Dutch Corner area, Jack and Kathy have a flock of 1,000 North Country Cheviots.

The Monsours purchased their first farm 12 years ago, complete with a turn-of-the century farmhouse. When buying the land, they agreed to allow the owner to remain in the house for 10 years.

At the end of the decade, Kathy was ready to move into action, turning the house into a vacation home known as The Sil-

houette. It offers a picturesque view of their sheep dotted fields, a spacious lawn, and a hot tub where one can view the stars and listen to the restful sounds of baaing sheep.

Inside, Kathy's meticulous housekeeping habits have created an elegant but very practical environment.

Helped in their agricultural ventures by their two sons, Jackson and Burt, the Monsours offer a variety of entertainment for their guests. Since the home is centrally located on the farm, guests can watch not only the sheep but the Border Collie and Great Pyrenees dogs at work.

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Wolff Names New Farm Show Team

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff announced Wednesday the appointment of a new management team to oversee the operations of the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

Wolff named Bill L. Wehry of Klingerstown, Schuylkill County, as deputy secretary; Edward L. Nielsen of Harrisburg, Dauphin County, as Farm Show director; and Larry R. Weaver of New Holland, Lancaster County, as chief of the Show Management Division.

"The addition of these three

experienced managers to the Farm Show team will strengthen and complement an already strong Bureau of Farm Show," Wolff said. "Together, we will continue to improve the quality of shows and events hosted by this world-class facility."

As deputy secretary, Wehry will have responsibility for the Bureau of Farm Show and other bureaus within the agriculture department.

Wehry is an owner/partner of Meadow Creek Farms, Schuylkill County, where he developed a knowledge of the livestock and crops industries.

Wehry has worked toward the advancement of federal farm policy and the implementation of farm programs in Pennsylvania. He has served six years on the USDA Farm Service Agency State Committee, including four years as chairman. He is also a member of the Schuylkill/Carbon County Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania Farmer's Union, the Schuylkill County Board for Farmland Preservation, and the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council.

Nielsen brings more than 20

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Conservation Efforts Prove Successful At Diversified Schertel Farm



From left: Mark, Marie, and George Schertel host a farm tour highlighting the many conservation measures completed during the past year on their Lynn Township farm.

DEANNA CUNFER
Carbon Co. Correspondent
NEW TRIPOLI (Lehigh Co.) — Members of the farming community recently visited the 100-acre Lynn Township farm of Mark, Marie, and George Schertel, where they saw firsthand several examples of how producers can benefit from the efforts and cooperation of agencies that provide programs to help protect and improve conservation measures.

Former dairy producers from Montgomery County, the Schertels purchased their property in 1955 and moved to the farm in 1960, where they raise beef cattle, hogs, corn, small grains, and hay.

The farm is situated on the rolling hills of western Lehigh County in an area where some of

those rolling hills can be quite steep. The lay of the land is ideal for running a beef cow-calf operation utilizing the steeper slopes for pasture for their 70 head of crossbred cattle.

The Schertel family also has a farrow-to-finish swine operation, and although the family hopes to incorporate conservation measures in the swine operation in the future, they knew their priority was to improve and protect the stream that runs through their property and pastureland.

Initially the Schertels contacted the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in 1997 about the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) but were not selected. They kept trying every year and were finally selected for the pro-

gram in 2001. Once they were notified of their selection, everyone — the Schertel family and various agencies — worked together to get the project up and going.

The Schertels wanted to take

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