**********5-DIGIT 16802
820 03 18068 050
296288
SERIALS RECORDS
PATTEE LIBRARY APT W209
UNIVERSITY PARK PA 16802

Lancaster Farming

Vol. 48 No. 37 | www.lancasterfarming.com | Four Sections | Saturday, July 12, 2003 | $37.00 Per Year | $1.00 Per Copy

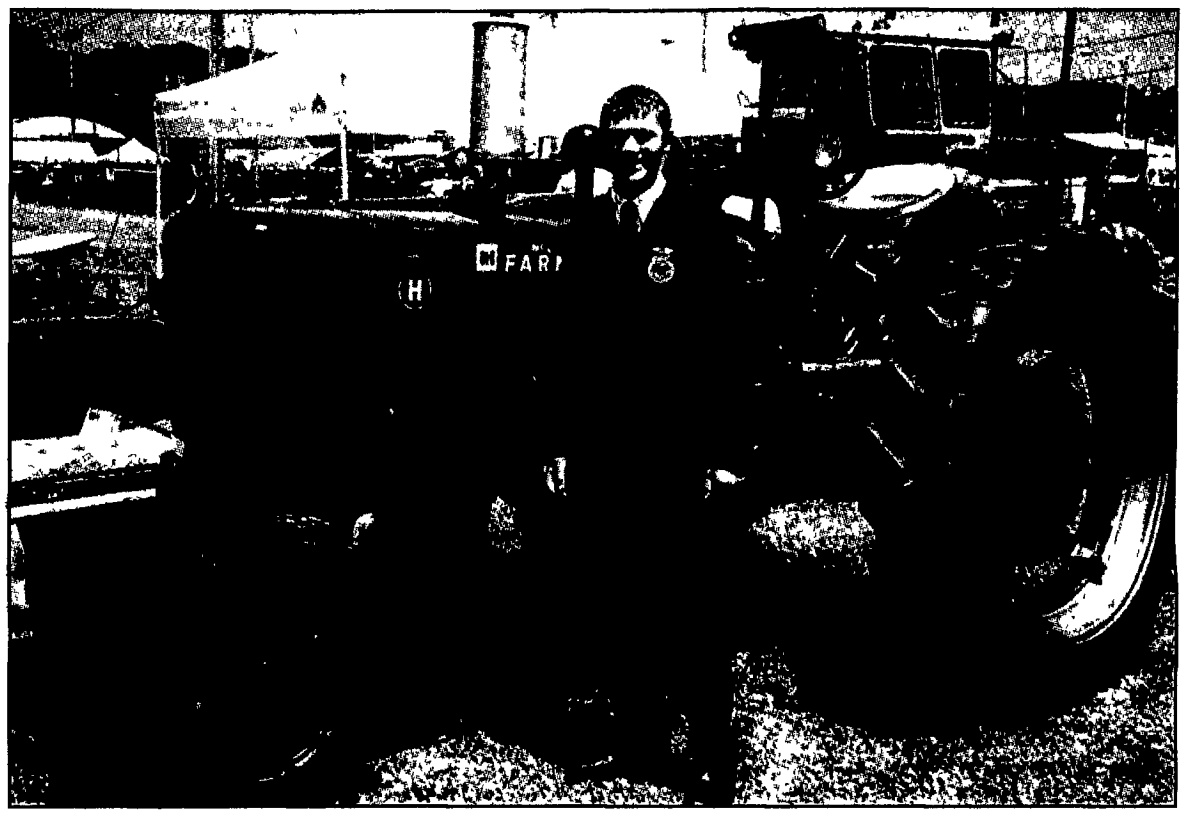
New FFA President Steps Into FFA's 'Legacy'

CHARLENE M. SHUPP
Special Correspondent

BLOOMSBURG (Columbia Co.) — With only a few weeks under his belt as the 2003-2004 Pennsylvania State FFA president, Eric Rubenstein is excited and ready to lead the Pennsylvania FFA along with the state officer team.

The son of Doug and Linda Rubenstein of Bloomsburg, Columbia County, Eric is a graduate of Danville Area High School and member of the Danville FFA Chapter. When speaking with

(Turn to Page A40)



New State FFA President Eric Rubenstein visited the IH Red Power Roundup recently at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds. ***Photo by Charlene Shupp, special correspondent***

Industry Farmer Scientist Working Together Toward A Sounder Grassland Program

Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council

Foraging Around

PFGC

Custom Bale Wrapper Works Overtime In Wet Weather

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

DENVER (Lancaster Co.) This spring the old advice make hay while the sun shines was true about impossible to follow.

In many areas, including Lancaster County, the persistently rainy weather well into June created a huge challenge for farmers trying to make dry bales.

For those trying to make hay between showers, it sure helped to have a bale wrapper nearby.

Jay Ivan Hoover was prepared to help farmers in the Denver area harvest high-quality forage by offering his services as a custom bale applier.

Jay Ivan has been offering the service for several years, including many years before he purchased two major pieces of equipment, a baler for making large square bales and a bale wrapper.

The baler makes three basic sizes of adjustable length. Since the wrapper can handle a maximum bale length of six feet, Hoover has been making all his four-foot bales for wrapping, with a spring exception.

Farmers who hire Hoover generally ask right for long bales.

According to Hoover, hay for wrapping is best baled when moisture content is between 40 and 50 percent.

It isn't always easy to predict how hay will be according to Hoover. During last year's drought-plagued season, he baled a total of just 3,500 bales. Already this year, he's harvested more than 2,000 bales. Because of the wet spring, he's working more time wrapping bales for others.

It all depends on the weather, Hoover said of the overall season and for his baling and wrapping services.

He generally keeps his customers satisfied by doing the baling and wrapping as timely as possible.

Occasionally, a breakdown or big challenge, Hoover said, when they call for help and a delay would make the customer unhappy.

We try our best, he said, not only to keep working on the wee hours of the morning making hay.

Some night, I didn't have much night, he said.

A dry, right foot to 8 bale weighs 600-800 pounds. Hoover said while the six-foot long, high moisture bales for wrapping weigh about 1,500 pounds.

Hoover also wraps bales for farmers who do their own baling. The in-line wrapper can handle either round or square bales.

Advantages of using square bales include easier storage and transport, according to Hoover.

Hoover charges by the bale for wrapping. For baling, he figures on both time and the number of bales. He does custom baling for

(Turn to Page C2)

Jay Ivan Hoover has plenty of work this year custom wrapping bales for local farmers. Here Hoover left wraps square bales with his in-line wrapper on the dairy farm of Glenn Wenger, pictured on the night near Ephrata. *Photo by Dave Lefever*

Youth Demonstrate Grazing Savvy At Project Grass Contest

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) The most seasoned graziers would be challenged by this contest.

But it was high school students who traveled from all over the state to participate in the first ever Youth Grazing Evaluation Scholarship Contest at Penn State's Haller Farm in State College May 7.

A total of 36 students in 11 teams tested their in-depth hands-on knowledge of various aspects of grassland management including plant identification, grassland condition, soil types and wildlife management.

Questions such as: Does the grazing systems group with cattle match the seasonal peak nutritional needs of this livestock herd under present management?

What is this grass growth stage of the dominant forage species and what change should be made in livestock management, plumbed the contestants abilities to assess a plot of pasture.

At the end of the day, a team of 4-H'ers from Cambria County was named the winner of the contest. Each member received $500 college scholarships, and the team received $1,200 toward creating a Springfield Mass. to the National Grazing Contest June 8-11.

The team went on to place second in the county in the 4-H division. The team was awarded a plaque and each individual received a medal. The competed against eight teams from Arkansas, Missouri and Ohio. A team from Missouri won the 4-H contest.

Genevieve Gemmy Christ, a member of the winning team, was named outstanding individual in the Penn State contest and received an additional $500 scholarship.

Christ, a high school senior this fall to Forest Hills School District, Cambria County, plans to major in environmental sciences at Penn State. She lives with her parents, Erik and Peggy Christ and two sisters in a beef farm near Vidman.

Cadets Hartels, Ethelburg, Mary Belle, Loretto and Matthew Vaneskey, Carrolltown made up the winning team along with Christ. All four plan to pursue agricultural or environmental careers.

The FFA team from Fayette County took second place in the contest. Members Justin Coffman, Max Frost, Amanda Shaffer and Dustin Snyder each received $500 college scholarships to further their agricultural interests.

The Bedford FFA team from Bedford County placed third. The 30-lb, 50-foot judging sites for grassland conditions and wildlife represented typical pasture areas used for livestock grazing and included a scenario with landowner goals for livestock and wildlife management.

To identify the contestants used aerial soil maps, locate the plot and determine soil types.

For the plant identification part of the contest participants had a total of 10 plants to name, including grasses, legumes, and weed species.

The contest was organized by Pennsylvania Project Grass, the multi-agency grazing promotion partnership that recently expanded to include the whole state.

Bobbi Bailey, Pennsylvania

(Turn to Page C2)

The Cambria County 4-H team took first place at the Project Grass Grazing Evaluation Contest at Penn State this spring. Team members are (front row from left) Matthew Vaneskey, Lindsey Hartels, Genevieve Christ and Marcella Ille. In the back row are advisors (from left) Virgil Wilford, NRCS; Scott Myers, 4-H agent; and Mike Hartels, Cambria County extension director. *Photo by Dave Lefever*

Lancaster Farming
Pennsylvania Forage & Grassland Council
Newsletter – Section C – July 12, 2003

PFGC Pasture Ponderings

Duane E. Pysher
NRCS Grassland Management Specialist

Well, it seems like it has been years (or a time since I sat down to write my column. Many things have happened in the time since that time. So as not to bore you with all the details, I will tell you that I suffered a stroke (I have recovered dramatically since April 1, he did it took place. The weakness of my right side has returned as well as my strength. The main things that happened were that I suffered from a loss of balance

(Turn to Page C3)

Quality hay production is the focus of this issue of the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council's *Foraging Around* newsletter in *Lancaster Farming* Section C. Included in the special section: Project Grass youth contest coverage, conservation updates, and advice for graziers.

Summer Ag Ed Conference Draws Instructors From East Coast

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff

DOYLESTOWN (Bucks Co.) — Teachers had a chance to be the students at this week's Summer Ag Ed Conference, an event conducted Monday through Wednesday here at Delaware Valley College.

Besides attending in-depth sessions to receive lesson plans and research materials, teachers participated in activities that included a trade show and educational exhibits or tours of the college and areas of interest in the Doylestown area.

Representatives of state associations also attended business sessions.

The conference was hosted by Region VI of the National Association of Agriculture Educators (NAAE). Region Six co-hosted the event with the national organization, which is broken up into six regions.

Other state ag education associations, along with the Pennsylvania FFA and Pennsylvania Young Farmer's Association, also participated in the conference.

The conference drew about 300 attendees. Eleven state FFA officers were joined by Del Val students, who also helped at the conference, in addition to 18 presenters. A delegation of 31 county agents and ag teachers from North Carolina, who came for a day to visit Pennsylvania, also participated in the conference.

One hundred of the attendees

(Turn to Page A22)

Dairy breed junior champion lineup at the Mason-Dixon Fair this week. From left, Cam Davis, judge; Heather Crowl, Milking Shorthorn; Erin Magness, Holstein (also supreme champion); Lisa Jones, Brown Swiss; Shawn Gill, Ayrshire; Jamey Knisely, Jersey; Kelly Vaughan, Guernsey; and Megan Heath, Mason-Dixon Fair queen. See story page A21. ***Photo by Dave Lefever***

U.S. Court Upholds Ruling; Beef Act 'Unconstitutional'

MILLIE BUNTING
Market Staff

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — Strike another blow against the beef checkoff.

On Tuesday, the 8th Circuit (for South Dakota) U.S. Court of Appeals ruled against the Secretary of Agriculture, the Cattlemen's Beef and Research Board, the Nebraska Cattlemen, Inc. and a few individuals, declaring the District Court "did not err in holding that the Beef Act and the Beef Order are unconstitutional and unenforceable."

The Livestock Marketing Association (LMA), the Western Organization of Resource Councils, and several individual beef producers had sued and won a decision last June 2002 that the beef checkoff was unconstitutional on first amendment grounds.

In the ruling Tuesday, the Appeals Court noted that "the government's interest in protecting the welfare of the beef industry

(Turn to Page A29)

Inside The Farmer

✔ Penn State Agronomy-Industry Field Day page A43.
✔ Mason-Dixon Fair coverage page A21.
✔ No-Till Field Day page A38.
✔ Lancaster DHIA page B18.