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Lancaster Farming

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Pa. State Grange Session Culminates With All-Granger Banquet

**CHARLENE M. SHUPP
ESPENSHADE**
Lancaster Farming Staff

EXTON (Chester Co.) — In spite of heavy rains and a power outage, more than 330 Grange members gathered here at the Inn at Chester Springs Monday night for the Pennsylvania State Grange's All-Granger Banquet.

The damp weather did not dampen the Grange members' spirits as state master Betsy Huber announced the selection of the 2003 Granger of the Year.

Margaret Tau of Hayfield Grange, Crawford County, was selected this year's winner. Before calling Tau to the podium, Huber reviewed several highlights about Tau's Grange activities.

"This Granger is always one of the first to arrive at a Grange function, and one of the last to leave," said Huber.

Huber also said that besides being a Grange secretary and a community service chairperson, Tau is always recruiting other members of her Grange to help out with service projects.

Some of the projects Tau participates in are a holiday card program to the local nursing home, food drives for the local food pantry, holiday candy and cookie boxes for shut-ins, and a Bible drive for the local women's prison.

Tau, a 60-year Grange member, said, "I'm shocked. I'm honored. If you don't belong to the Grange, I don't know why you don't."

Tau also noted her Grange career began with an unusual start with a special dispensation from the state master allowing her to join her Grange at a young age since there was not a junior program at the time.

"It's been a long journey and I have loved every minute of it," said Tau in reflection of her 60 years in Grange.

The Granger of the Year is selected through a nomination process and panel of judges.

In addition to Tau's selection as Granger of the Year, Agriculture Secretary Dennis C. Wolff

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Margaret Tau of Hayfield Grange, Crawford County, center, was selected 2003 Granger of the Year. She is congratulated by Ken Mennit, 2002 Granger of the Year and State Master Betsy Huber. Photo by Charlene Shupp Espenshade

Lancaster Farming Celebrates 45 Year

Forty-five years ago — Nov. 4, 1958 — Lancaster Farming appeared in farm producer mailboxes in southeast Pennsylvania.

Every Saturday since, Lancaster Farming has provided local news, market and commodity price reports, agri-industry columns, special features of farm families, special producer sections, and advertising to our faithful readers.

Lancaster Farming has expanded its circulation to more than 50,000 subscribers — the largest in history — throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast.

Farmers and agri-industries rely on this weekly farm newspaper. For that, we simply say "thank you" to all our loyal readers.

Office Closed Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 27, Lancaster Farming office is closed. The office will re-open Friday, Nov. 28.

For the Nov. 29 issue, there are some deadline changes:

Public Sale and Mailbox ads, 5 p.m., Friday, Nov. 21.

Classified, Section D ads — 4 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 25.

Classified, Section C, Farm Equipment ads, 4 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 25.

Section A ad deadline 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 25.

General News — noon, Wednesday, Nov. 26.

Fair Association Prepares For State Convention

LaPLATA, Md. — "Take a Gamble on a Shore Thing" is the theme for the 2004 Maryland Association of Agricultural Fairs and Shows Convention Nov. 14-15 at the Delaware State Fair in Harrington, Del.

The Delaware State Fair is hosting this year's annual convention, which will attract fair managers, board members, nationally acclaimed speakers, trade show exhibitors, and enter-

tainers from across the region. The entire convention will be on the fairgrounds complex.

"The officers, board of directors, and staff of the Delaware

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Despite Some Traffic, Getting The Harvest In



TALMAGE (Lancaster Co.) — It's tough enough to harvest corn, and then you have to deal with traffic. This is a view looking south on Rt. 772 near Talmage late last week, as the harvest season begins to draw to a close. According to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service, for the week ending Oct. 26, it was a good week for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 65 percent adequate and 35 percent surplus. Corn acres harvested for grain advanced to 38 percent complete, 26 percent behind last year and still 13 percent behind the five-year average. The corn crop condition was rated as 5 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 23 percent excellent, a slight decrease as compared to the previous week because the recent wind damage became more apparent. Ninety-five percent of the corn acreage has reached the dent stage and 83 percent has reached maturity. Corn silage harvest was 92 percent complete, 7 and 6 percent behind 2002 and the five-year average, respectively.
Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

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Ag Directory To Feature Experts

Mail Or Fax Changes To Us

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — The year 2004 marks the fourth annual Lancaster Farming Ag Directory.

For 2004, Lancaster Farming plans a new portion of the annual phonebook-like reference source: "Call On The Experts." Leaders and decision-makers in Northeast and Mid-Atlantic agriculture and related industries will be listed, along with addresses, phone numbers, and Websites.

For agencies, universities, and others who want their information updated, please mail in changes to 2004 Ag Directory, Lancaster Farming, P.O. Box 609, Ephrata, PA 17522. You may also fax in on company letterhead to (717) 733-6058.

In 2003, the Ag Directory to
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