

Life Sci

*****5-DIGIT 16802
977 P2 18561 050
296288
SERIALS, RECORDS
176 PATERNO LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY PARK PA 16802-1808

Lancaster Farming

Vol. 49 No. 9

www.lancasterfarming.com

Five Sections

Saturday, December 27, 2003

\$37.00 Per Year

\$1.00 Per Copy



Making An Impact

A FOCUS ON YOUNG FARMERS

Positive Thinking

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

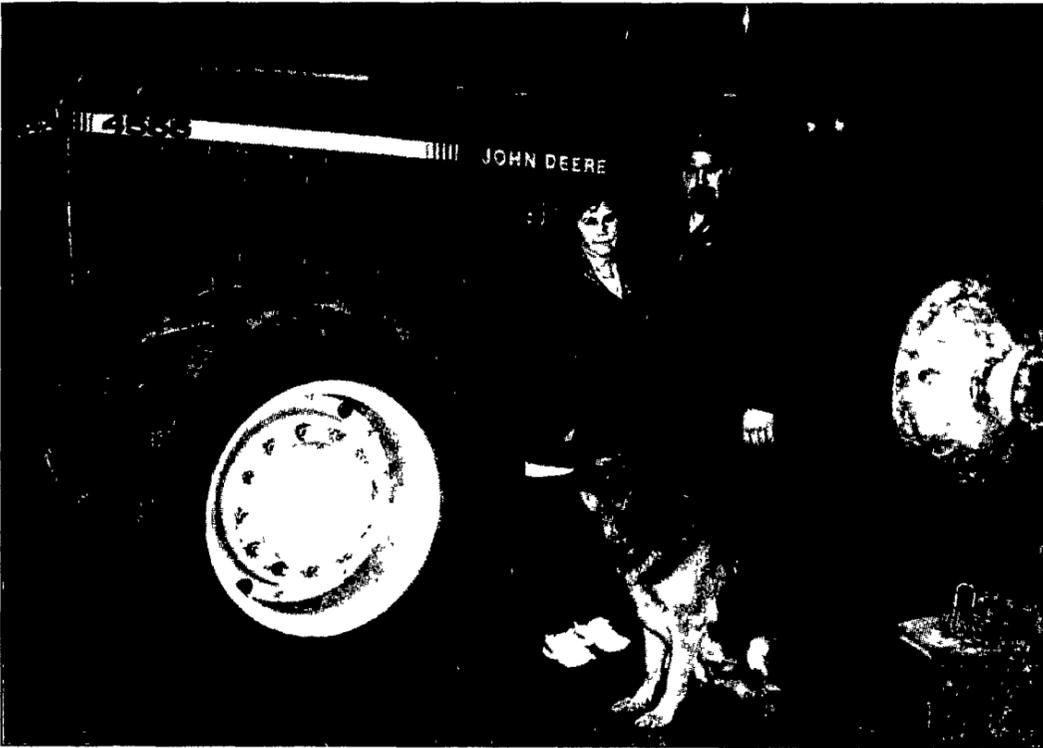
Editor's note: "Making An Impact" is a series of features on young farmers who are cre-

ating their own success. This story focuses on a successful crop operation in Luzerne County. Future stories are scheduled on dairy, swine, and crop farmers in the southeast region of the state, in addition to state and regional programs affecting young and beginning farmers.

four years, the Balliets decided to take the big step and go out on their own.

The USDA held the original farm in inventory. The Balliets made the decision to purchase the farm in 1997.

The road to obtaining the
(Turn to Page A19)



Barbara and Matt Balliet with their dog Bosco continue to build on the success of their operation using positive thinking. This Luzerne County couple established the farm in 1993 with 185 acres. Today, they farm about 700 acres.

Photo by Charlene Shupp Espenshade

DRUMS (Luzerne Co.)— The power of positive thinking, hard work, dedication, and thoughtful planning are only a few of the words that could be used to describe Matt and Barb Balliet.

When looking around their property, it is hard to believe that only five years ago, they began the farm with 185 acres in Columbia County.

For 2004, the Balliets are preparing to raise wheat, soybeans, oats, hay, and corn on about 700 acres in Luzerne, Columbia, and Schuylkill counties.

Matt was graduated from Penn State, where he earned a degree in engineering. But it didn't take him long after his graduation to begin to feel the pull to farm.

"I worked in the construction industry for a year or two after college," said Matt "I decided that I wanted to be back on a farm, and then I went to work for a grain farmer full time"

After working on the farm for

“A lot of people don't want to spend the time going to meetings, like being involved in Farm Bureau, but it's part of doing business. It doesn't matter if you are a doctor and are part of a medical group or a contractor and are part of a home builders association, it's part of doing business.”

Matt Balliet

2003 A Year Of Big Changes In Agriculture

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — Farmers will likely remember 2003 as the year the drought ended.

Plentiful precipitation across the region, including a February blizzard and a September tropical storm, helped replenish low groundwater levels and bring

high crop yields following a lengthy dry spell that ran from

2001 through late 2002.

According to the Pennsylvania

Finally, A State Budget

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

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania ended its

distinction as the only state without a budget Tuesday as Gov. Ed Rendell signed it into effect.

Included is more than \$200
(Turn to Page A28)

state climatologist, the final counties in Pennsylvania were removed from drought watch status by June of this year

(Turn to Page A23)

Special Pages
D25-29



FARMERSVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — Some milder-than-usual temperatures make these cows act like it's summer, even when cold and brisk New Year's Day temperatures are usually what's in store. The photographer captured this scene last weekend at the corner of Cider Mill and Covered Bridge Road at Bitzers Mill/Eberlys Cider Mill Covered Bridge. Happy New Year, everyone!
Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

Breaking News On
BSE page A37
Right To Farm
page A37

Inside The Farmer

- ✓ Farm Show Schedule page D25.
- ✓ Farm Show Exhibitors, Maps page D26.
- ✓ DairyOne State DHIA's page B22, C2.
- ✓ Va. Dairy Conferences page A33.
- ✓ Holiday Treats page B6.

2004 Agricultural Directory

Compiled by
Lancaster Farming

Ask The Experts
Includes:
Phone Numbers
Addresses
Websites



Look for the new 2004 Lancaster Farming Ag Directory this issue. Featured: a new portion of the book, "Ask The Experts." It's a component of our Ag Directory helpful for those seeking answers — right at your fingertips.