

2003: A Year Of Big Changes

(Continued from Page A24)

Bloomsburg, was announced as the new Pennsylvania State FFA president.

July

A judge from the 8th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals (South Dakota) upheld an earlier ruling that the beef checkoff is unconstitutional.

Lancaster Farming congratulated 16 dairy farms from across the Pennsylvania for being chosen 2003 Dairy of Distinction winners.

August

Ag Progress Days at Rockspring highlighted forest products, as well as its usual wide range of farm equipment and

other agricultural innovations.

The Ontario Minister of Agriculture Helen Johns met with Pennsylvania Ag Secretary Dennis Wolff and Pennsylvania ag organizations to ask for support in allowing trade to return to normal as soon as possible. Canadian cattle exports have been curtailed by border closings after the BSE was discovered in a cow in Alberta in May.

The PDA and Penn State unveiled the Samuel E. Hayes Livestock Evaluation Center during a ceremony at the new facility near Rockspring. The building was named for the former secretary of agriculture, who helped spearhead the project.

Dr. John Enck, executive di-

rector of the Pennsylvania Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission, told the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee that the state's animal diagnostic labs need major funding, equipment, and staff updates in order to "have a chance fighting disease" in the event of an ag-terrorist attack.

Pennsylvania conservation leaders announced the doubling of acreage eligible for the conservation reserve enhancement program (CREP) in the state.

September

Fed cattle market prices reached recordbreaking levels of \$100 or more per hundredweight.

Carla Martin of Manheim, Lancaster County, was crowned



Here, the Conestoga River near Farmersville rose to flood levels after heavy rains followed Tropical Storm Isabel. Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

Pennsylvania Dairy Princess during the All-American Dairy Show kickoff.

About 25,000 acres of corn in Lancaster County were hit hard by winds from Tropical Storm Isabel, with an additional 97,000 acres suffering estimated yield losses averaging about 15 percent, according to Bob Anderson, Lancaster County crops agent. While Isabel affected a wide area in the region, in Pennsylvania southeastern counties and areas in Mifflin County reported some of the worst crop damage.

The All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg announced Hermitage Conciller Sheba, a 5-year-old Jersey from Waverly Farm, Clearbrook, Va., as supreme champion.

Ag lender Wachovia announced its plans to exit the ag loan business in Pennsylvania and Delaware.

October

During the Keystone International Livestock Exhibition in Harrisburg, longtime banker

Mike Firestone was named to the Pennsylvania Livestock Association Hall of Fame.

Coordinators reported that a corn harvest aid effort played a big part in helping farmers in Lancaster and Chester counties get their crop in after winds from Tropical Storm Isabel made many fields difficult or impossible to harvest with a binder.

Leaders from the Pennsylvania departments of agriculture and environmental protection launched the Water Resources Planning Act.

Bryan Swistock, water resources specialist with Penn State cooperative extension said 2003 will go down in history as the wettest year on record for most of the state, with an average 23 inches of rainfall recorded during the four-month period of May through August.

About 170 people gathered in Lancaster for a raw milk informational meeting, which included

(Turn to Page A26)



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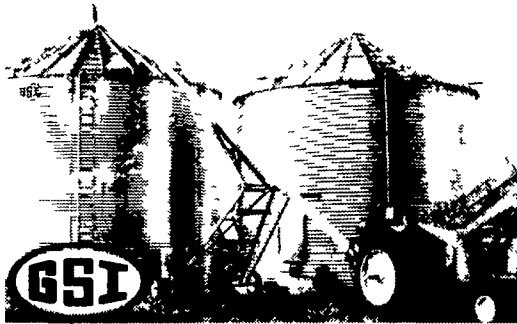
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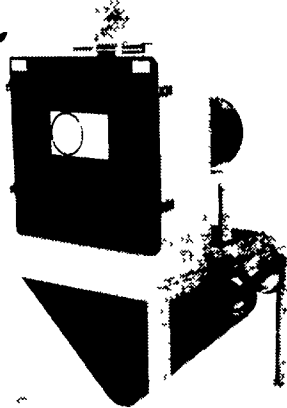
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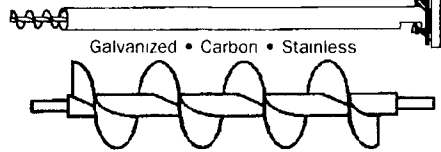
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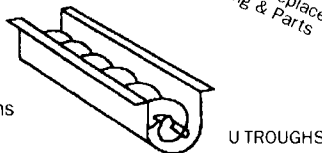


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