



at THE FARM AND HOME CENTER

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FARM AND HOME FOUNDATION AWARDS SIX SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2014

Six Lancaster County seniors recently received scholarships from the Farm and Home Foundation to attend college and major in some aspect of agriculture or food science. Applicants are ranked by their academic achievement, financial need, community service, and demonstrated leadership skills. Each student receives an annual grant of \$1,000 for up to four years, having a potential cumulative value of \$4,000. To continue receiving grants, they must maintain at least a 3.0 grade average and remain in a qualifying major of study.

Allyson Balmer is a senior at Manheim Central High School and the daughter of Bryan and Tammy Balmer of Manheim. She will study agriculture education and

dairy science at Delaware Valley College. Allyson is currently president of 4-H Dairy Club and previously held other leadership positions in the club. She is also president of her FFA chapter and held other offices in that club, as well as in Lancaster County FFA. She is a member of several National Honor Society groups and was a leader during the Lancaster County Leadership Conference. During her free time, Allyson volunteers at the Penn State Research Farm and Central Penn Food Bank. She works part-time feeding calves and milking cows at a local dairy farm.

Katie Hess, daughter of David and Starla Hess, attends Penn Manor High School, where she is on the girls' tennis team and

member of National Honor Society. She actively participates in Manor Chapter FFA and Lancaster County FFA, has served as treasurer of both groups, as chaplain and vice-president of Manor FFA, and has led FFA food and blood drives. Katie shows pigs and dairy beef at Lampeter Fair. She is a leader in her church's youth group and volunteers at Water Street Rescue Mission. Her career goals will take her to Penn State Berks, where she will major in animal science.

Abigail Reiter will graduate from the PA Cyber Charter School. She lives in Narvon with her parents, Darryl Reiter and Rebecca Reiter-Crambert. An honor student who has already taken some college level classes, Abigail will study livestock management at Delaware Valley College in the fall. She participated in Lancaster County Conservation School, Envirothon, and Wildlife Leadership Academy. She also served as treasurer of FFA and participates in Pequea Valley High School's marching and jazz bands. Her volunteer work includes serving in Appalachia, and beginning a container garden program with Jars of Hope Food Pantry in Gap. She helped her family to develop and grow a new business venture, a CSA on their farm.

Mikaela Schell will graduate from Donegal High School and is the daughter of David and Janice Schell of Mount Joy. A National Honor Society member and senior class secretary, Mikaela is also layout editor for the school's yearbook. Serving as swim team captain and cross-country co-captain, she was awarded the Scholar Athlete Award, and twice received the Coach's Award for leadership and compas-

Continued on page 8



Left to right: Allyson Balmer, Abigail Reiter, Atalie Winters, Katie Hess, Amy Wood, Mikaela Schell

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Scholarships Awarded1, 8
Manager’s Desk2
Extraordinary Impact2
50th Anniversary Banquet.3
The President Speaks3
Science Fair Awards3
Penn State Extension.4
USDA’s Farm Service
Agency4, 5
USDA’s Natural Resources
Conservation Service5
Lanc. Co. Conservation
District.5, 6
John H. Lichty.7
DBC Ag Products7

**FROM THE
MANAGER’S DESK:**

Since our last chat, we have weathered a brutally cold, fierce and long enduring winter, along with most other North American residents. Weather forecasters brought frequent unwelcome predictions of forthcoming storms that we hoped would not materialize. Water cooler and coffee break discussions centered on how many inches of precipitation could accumulate in forms of snow, sleet, freezing rain and various combinations, with accompanying wind chill factors below zero. Often one snowstorm so closely followed another that the ice and snow was not properly handled before preparation for the next began. Mountains of snow appeared in shopping mall parking lots, city streets became narrow passageways, and ice melt became as valuable as gold! School, business, and event closings became common occurrences, and at times, thousands of homes went for days without electricity due to downed power lines. Even the month of April brought the proverbial “onion snow.”

The Farm and Home Foundation looked forward to celebrating the 50th Anniversary of its start in 1964 with a gala banquet on January 21, only to be forced to postpone it due to a blizzard that day. The re-scheduled date was Thursday, March 6, the earliest date available for Dr. David Kohl, our speaker from Virginia. Carefully prepared decorations, centerpieces, printed programs and commemorative booklets were stored for another six weeks.

Sadly, one Foundation board member who would have been a part of the January 21 celebration was noticeably missing March 6. The bleak, frigid winter yielded yet more distress. On the morning of February 1, Lloyd Welk, a farmer from Quarryville and respected board member since 2000, went out to maintain the grounds of Welk Acres Farm and suffered a fatal accident. Having served faithfully and enthusiastically for 14 years on the Farm and Home Foundation’s Board of Directors, Lloyd will be greatly missed. I already miss his brief visits to our office when he was in the area, just to ask how things were going, give a word of encouragement, and flash his broad grin before getting back on the road.

Yes, it was a rough winter in many ways. But the chirping robins, greening grass, budding trees and nodding yellow daffo-

dils introduce renewed life and proclaim hope that springs eternal in the human experience. As a result of going through the past winter, perhaps more appreciated than before, we drink in the sights, sounds and aromas of this vernal season-enjoy!

Linda Armstrong

Linda J. Armstrong, *Manager*

**EXTRAORDINARY
IMPACT**

The second annual county-wide Extraordinary Give fundraiser took place on November 22, 2013, with the Farm and Home Foundation again participating. More than 250 non-profit groups solicited donations this year, accruing a total of \$2,924,261 in the 24 hour period. Forty-three donations totaling \$15,325 were designated for the Farm and Home Foundation, affording us 0.52% of the \$250,000 stretch pool, or \$1,310. The Foundation also received an additional “Midnight Madness” prize of \$1,000, one of 35 bonus gifts awarded randomly throughout the day.

Farm and Home Foundation obtained donations that day from 12 new contributors, or 28% of its total donors, who had never previously given to benefit the Farm and Home Foundation. We thank those new contributors, as well as all our faithful donors, who give regularly to assist in supporting agriculture, conservation, and family living in our community.

The event was primarily sponsored by the Lancaster County Community Foundation and Rodgers and Associates, with seven other businesses providing the bonus incentives. We extend a huge thank you to these generous sponsors who made the event possible and to all our donors who helped to make it another successful fundraising endeavor. As with last year, when you give, EXTRAORDINARY THINGS HAPPEN!

MISSION STATEMENT

“The Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County strives to sustain and preserve our agrarian heritage by supporting, strengthening and promoting the advancement of agriculture and family living in local communities through education, leadership development and conservation.”

Farm & Home Foundation

300 ATTEND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Despite the disappointment of postponing its January 21 date due to a snowstorm, nearly 300 people gathered on Thursday, March 6, to celebrate the fifty year history of the Farm and Home Foundation and its service to Lancaster County. The Max Smith Auditorium was beautifully transformed for the evening with a Golden Winter theme. Ruhl Insurance and Westfield Insurance were Speaker Sponsors, Fulton Bank was Dinner Sponsor, MidAtlantic Farm Credit was Social Hour Sponsor, and Laurel Ridge Pig Company was Dessert Sponsor. Twenty-nine businesses and individuals also sponsored tables and door prizes.

Festivities began with hors d'oeuvres during a social hour in the lobby. Guests were entertained by a bluegrass trio composed of Grace Kensinger, her teacher, Nev Jackson, and Tony Stoltzfus. The evening continued in the Max Smith Auditorium with a catered dinner prepared by Hess's Catering and served by FFA students from the Hans Herr Chapter at Lancaster Mennonite School.

Dr. David Kohl, Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Finance and Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, was the featured speaker. His topic, "Good to Great in Agriculture," focused on the importance of having forward vision and utilizing our resources of youth, technology, and global opportunity to grow agriculture into the decades ahead. Biology, economics, business and communication are all linked to agriculture and will afford many jobs and good careers for young people. As with most vocations, he commented, good people skills for future agriculturalists are vitally important because we are all interdependent and must deal with people.

Dr. Kohl commended those who had the vision decades ago to organize the Farm and Home Foundation and build the Farm and Home Center. He reminisced about the many occasions he was here to participate in events that promote our agricultural industry. "Let's keep the ball rolling for the next 50 years, because this Foundation plays a very important part in the success of this county," he said.

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In its recent election, Jack Coleman, Nevin Dourte, Kurtis Groff, Bernard Nissley, Helen Rohrer, and Alan Strock were re-elected for three year terms, and Lynn Royer was newly elected to the Foundation's board of directors.

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS:

Lancaster County agriculture has traditionally been highly regarded because of its longevity, productivity, and innovation in methodology. Because of its reputation, international groups frequently visit the County to observe and learn from local agriculture experts. The International Visitors Council of Philadelphia, associated with the U.S. State Department's Visitor Leadership Program, recently contacted the Farm and Home Center to request a forum with two German visitors. It was part of an eighteen day tour entitled "Agricultural Issues of Importance to the United States, Germany and Europe." The meeting at the Farm and Home Center followed a visit to a local dairy farm and feed distributor to witness actual farming practices and methods of processing, storing and distributing animal feeds.

Visiting the Farm and Home Center on April 25 was Dr. Simon Schluter, Milk Executive from Deutscher Bauernverband, The German Farmer's Association, as well as the owner of a turkey farm outside of Berlin. He was accompanied by Rudi-Michael Wienecke, student of agriculture and freelance journalist on agricultural topics, who also raises Shetland ponies as a hobby. They were escorted by German translator Ruth Boggs.

I met with the group, along with Vice-president Rob Barley, Extension Director Leon Ressler, and Manager Linda Armstrong. We got to know more about their experience in German agriculture and answered their ques-



Left to right: Leon Ressler, Nevin Dourte, Rudi-Michael Wienecke, Linda Armstrong, Simon Schluter, Rob Barley

tions, as well as exchanged ideas on national involvement and restrictions in agriculture, consumers' perception of food safety, and GMO's. Germany's economy strongly depends on agriculture, as one of eight Germans are engaged in agri-business. Our visitors were interested to learn that the average age of farmers in our area is 48 and that farmers are generally optimistic about the success of their endeavors. They were also curious about practices of Amish farmers as compared to others using more mechanized methods.

It was an interesting and beneficial exchange and means of understanding and advancing agriculture from a global perspective.

Nevin Dourte, President

SIX STUDENTS WIN SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS

Six students received Farm and Home Foundation awards March 26 at the North Museum Science and Engineering Fair at Franklin and Marshall College. Since 1999, participants whose projects demonstrate excellence in agriculture or consumer sciences have received these auxiliary awards.

First place in the senior high level was awarded to Maya Rao, junior at Hempfield, for her project, "Rapid testing for coliform bacteria using nanotechnology." Emma Munyan, senior at Elizabethtown, received second place, and freshman, Brandon Roe, from Lancaster Mennonite School, took third.

In the junior high division, Victoria Carty, an eighth grader at The New School of Lancaster, was awarded first place for her project, "Flame Retardants: Are our washing machines the only thing that can save us?" Second place went to eighth grader Sophia Ramsey from Centerville Middle School, and third place went to Tyler Wassell, eighth grader at Lancaster Country Day.

Dr. Gregory Martin, Poultry Educator of Penn State Cooperative Extension, served as judge.

TENANT NEWS

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Lancaster County Cooperative Extension

EXTENSION NEWS

*Dr. Tim Elkner,
Horticulture Educator*

Lancaster County has a long history of fruit and vegetable production, both for sales to wholesale markets as well as for retail sales. In addition, many homeowners are active horticulturists by maintaining the landscapes around their homes, as well as by producing fruit and vegetables for their personal consumption. In my position as horticulture educator, I provide educational programming and problem-solving services to commercial vegetable and fruit producers. I also advise the county Master Gardener program and provide educational activities for these dedicated Extension volunteers.

The recent interest in both 'locally-grown' produce, as well as concerns for healthy eating, has resulted in greater demand for Lancaster County vegetables and fruit. While recent census data generally show a slight decrease in acreage devoted to many crops, the number of horticultural crop growers has increased. I have felt this shift, as many new growers have called the Extension office for information on producing various crops as well as for assistance with disease and insect control issues. In addition, the economic downturn prompted many people with access to land to start growing vegetable and fruit crops to replace lost income. These growers also relied on Extension to help with their new farming ventures.

Many growers, both old and new, have taken advantage of technology to increase their growing season and thus increase profitability. As you travel around the county, I'm sure you have noticed the numerous 'greenhouses' that have been built on farms. These structures are not true greenhouses, however, but are what are known as high tunnels. They are less expensive to build than a true greenhouse, as there is no heat, electric or permanent foundation. Growers can capture early spring and late fall heat

with a tunnel and thus extend the season. In addition, by protecting crops from rainfall, growers have been able to reduce diseases in their crops. This has the double benefit of saving the grower money, as well as reducing the environmental impact by growing the crop with fewer fungicide applications. Raspberries are one crop that has truly benefitted from high tunnels, because of the tremendous increase in shelf-life of the harvested fruit with minimal fungicide applications, compared to regular field production.

Master Gardener volunteers provide education and assistance for the non-commercial side of horticulture in the county. Throughout the year they answer the numerous phone calls and assist walk-in visitors with plant (and more!) problems and questions directed to the office. Other Master Gardener activities include presentations, programs for youth in schools and at the County Youth Intervention Center, maintenance of a demonstration garden at the Penn State Research and Extension Center in Manheim, and educational 'plant clinics' at local events. These volunteers keep current with the constantly-changing field of horticulture by participating in continuing education activities.

The County commercial and consumer horticulture programs are part of the statewide Penn State Extension system that provides similar services throughout the state. Access to Penn State's horticulture resources begins at the Lancaster County website (<http://extension.psu.edu/lancaster>) or the Extension office in Room 140.

USDA'S FARM SERVICE AGENCY

*Julie Holland,
County Executive Director*

NEW FARM BILL

We have a new farm bill, and with it comes new programs. Unfortunately, we do not yet have all the details. As they become available, please watch farm publications and emails I send. If you do not receive FSA newsletters, email me at julie.holland@pa.usda.gov to be added.

For information about disaster programs currently available, please contact the FSA office or visit the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> and click on Disaster Assistance Programs. Many of these programs were made retroactive for losses experienced since October 1, 2011. Here is a brief description of them:

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, & Farm-raised Fish (ELAP) - covers losses from disasters: adverse weather or other conditions like blizzards and wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program.

Livestock Forage Program (LFP) - provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses due to drought or fire.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) - provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths resulting from disaster.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) - provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines damaged by natural disasters.

The MILC program (Milk Income Loss Contract) was temporarily extended until the new program can be implemented. There have been no payments thus far in 2014, but if you have questions, please contact us.

Don't forget to report your crops! The new programs all require you to report crops, including the programs that haven't had sign-up yet. Accurately reporting hay and pasture is essential in the event a disaster occurs (drought, flood, etc.). Small grains and hay/pasture should have been reported by November 15, but you may still do so without penalty. The deadline for most spring-seeded crops is July 15th. Please stop by the office now to get maps to complete in advance, saving time when you come to the office for reporting. Appointments for doing so are recommended, and customers with appointments are given preference. Call us at 717-397-6235, ext. 2.

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USDA's NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Melissa P. Nelson

KNOW YOUR FARMER, KNOW YOUR FOOD: USDA KYF2 PROGRAM

After the long, cold winter, it's time to start thinking about that first batch of homegrown, delicate leaf lettuce, spring onions, juicy tomatoes and sweeter-than-you remember sweet corn. Local farmers will soon be selling fresh produce, meats and other goods at nearby farmers' markets, roadside stands, u-pick operations and memberships to community supported agriculture (CSA) programs.

Since 2009, local foods have been one of the top ten consumer trends identified by the National Restaurant Association. Consumers want to know where the food they buy comes from and to establish connections with local producers and farmers. Today there are more than 7,800 farmers' markets across the U.S. listed by the USDA, representing a 67% increase since 2008. "Local foods" are usually defined as those products produced within a 150 mile radius of the point of sale.

Agencies within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), like the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and other partners support local and regional food systems through the Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food (KYF2) program. This program offers financial and technical assistance to strengthen food systems across the country by encouraging the development of community farmers' markets, food hubs and local producer networks. To assist in the search for local suppliers, producers, service providers, and markets, Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Compass is an interactive map available online for use.

Direct marketing of foods helps farmers realize a higher share of food dollars and supports the many local businesses in a community where farmers' markets and other food programs thrive. A healthy local foods system also helps create jobs
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and gives beginning farmers an entry point to market food, farm-crafts, fiber and other agricultural products. For more details on how these programs can be put to work in your community, check out the USDA blog and program memos at <http://blogs.usda.gov/category/your-farmer-know-your-food/>. Many other local food guides are available, including the South Central PA Buy Fresh, Buy Local Food Guide at www.capitalrcd.org and the Lancaster Buy Fresh Buy Local Guide to Local Foods at www.lancasterfbfl.org. Be sure to enjoy all the great local foods the summer has to offer!

Farmers who are interested in season-extending high tunnels and consumers who are interested in locating additional farm fresh food producers may access a new high tunnel discussion board web site at www.hightunnelnetwork.org. Use of the web site is free, and farmers may upload farm profiles for consumers to preview.



NRCS provides a number of technical and financial conservation-based assistance programs for beginning, organic and traditional farmers. This assistance helps farmers recognize and address natural resource concerns, build better soil health, and control erosion and runoff in their fields. For more information on programs to assist farmers, visit the Lancaster office of the NRCS in Room 200 of the Farm and Home Center, or call 717-299-5361 ext. 3.

LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWS

*Kate Bresaw,
Ag Conservation Technician*

MILKHOUSE WASTEWATER: THE BASICS

Milkhouse wastewater is a necessary byproduct of any dairy operation. However, if released untreated into surface or groundwater, it can threaten aquatic life

and the safety of drinking water. Milkhouse wastewater contains elevated levels of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5), Nitrogen, Phosphorous from detergents and acid rinses, Total Suspended Solids (TSS), and fats and oils, all of which can be a problem when released into the environment. Historically, many Lancaster County farms have relied on subsurface disposal of milkhouse wastewater. The TSS, fats and oils, however, can quickly clog the system, easily identifiable when wastewater seeps to the soil surface and causes a consistently wet area where the drain field should be. A failing system may not be so obvious with sandy soils; elevated levels of nutrients and other pollutants may leach into groundwater, only to be identified after the household well has already been contaminated. A wastewater seep can be hazardous to animal health, and contaminated well water can be unsafe for human consumption. Both may be very expensive problems to fix.

Since the 1990's, failing subsurface systems may not be legally repaired, and no new subsurface systems may be installed in Pennsylvania. According to Chapter 59a of Title 7 and Chapter 91 of Title 25 of Pennsylvania Code, the system shall not pollute the soil surface or contaminate the water supply, fresh milk, or milking equipment. Additionally, it shall not be conducive to the breeding of insects or create a nuisance or public health hazard.

A legal alternative to treat and/or collect the milkhouse wastewater must, therefore, be utilized. Legal alternatives include: 1) collection in a liquid manure storage or separate wastewater storage facility and surface-applied to cropland or pasture according to a nutrient or manure management plan; 2) surface-applied to an engineered vegetated treatment area through a sprinkler or pipe manifold system; 3) treatment in a public sewer system with sufficient slope and capacity to handle the wastewater.

Each system has its drawbacks. 1) Surface Application: application of milkhouse wastewater to cropland or pasture is cumbersome and expensive to haul. Some say if milkhouse water is diverted to a manure storage facility, it can kill the

bacteria in manure and affect plant uptake of nutrients; no evidence was found, however, to support this claim. Evidence does indicate that a heavy concentration of milkhouse wastewater (more than 50% dilution) has some detrimental effect on seed germination and plant growth. Also, if surface-applying manure or wastewater, it is important to adhere to applicable setbacks from surface water, sinkholes, and wells. 2) Vegetated Treatment Area: the many mechanized parts of the manifold or sprinkler system require regular maintenance. The vegetated treatment area requires periodic maintenance and intentional grazing and/or crop management. 3) Public Sewer: many municipal sewer systems do not service farming communities; of those that do, some have restrictions on how and when they accept agricultural wastewater. Contact your local municipality for more information before implementing this alternative. This alternative may also be cost prohibitive.

Given these conditions, specific site characteristics and management preference, the farmer must determine the best legal alternative to manage milkhouse wastewater. If you have questions or would like technical or planning assistance to address milkhouse wastewater, contact a Conservation District Agriculture Technician or NRCS representative at (717) 299-5361 x.5.

APPLY NOW FOR YOUTH CONSERVATION SCHOOL

A rigorous summer field school filled with fresh air and learning is just a few months away. The Lancaster County Youth Conservation School (YCS), celebrating 35 years of education in the great outdoors, will take place July 20-26. Here's your chance to be a part of it.

The Lancaster County Conservation District, along with Local Sportsmen's Clubs, proudly offers a week-long summer field school for teens, ages 14-16, and focuses on outdoor activities and conservation of our natural resources. Students reside at the school where tents and cots demonstrate low impact camping, located at the Northern Lancaster County Fish and Game Protection Association in West Cocalico Township.

The many study topics, to empower students and ensure a sustained conservation legacy, include water quality, forestry, canoeing, wildlife management, archery, survival, and firearm safety. Teens have the opportunity to meet professionals in various environmentally related fields and to discuss career options with them.

Students benefit from generous County Federated Sportsmen's Clubs and Community Organizations who provide 90% of the YCS tuition. Interested students who apply are responsible for a \$25 registration fee. To receive an application, contact Sallie Gregory at 299-5361 x.117 or click www.lancasterconservation.org. June 9 is the deadline for applications.

Sallie Gregory
Education Coordinator

JOHN H. LICHTY, EA, TAX ACCOUNTING SERVICES

TAX RECORD RETENTION

This issue we offer guidance on how long to retain personal income tax records. You may need to produce them if the IRS or a state or local tax authority audits your return or seeks to assess or collect a tax. Lenders may also require tax returns as a condition to lending money.

Keep returns indefinitely and usually the supporting records for six years. Except in cases of fraud or substantial understatement of income, IRS can generally only assess tax for a year within three years after the return for that year was filed or three years after the return was due, if later. If you file your 2013 income tax return by April 15, 2014, IRS has until April 15, 2017, to assess a tax deficiency against you. If you file late, IRS has three years from the date you filed to assess a deficiency.

The three-year rule isn't ironclad; the assessment period is extended to six years if more than 25% of gross income is omitted from a return. If no return was filed for a tax year, IRS can assess tax with no time limit. If IRS claims you never filed a return for a specific year, keeping a copy of the return will prove that you did.

While impossible to be sure the IRS won't at some point seek to assess tax, retaining

tax returns indefinitely and important records six years after returns are filed should be adequate. If a return is filed electronically, the company that prepared and/or filed your return is required to provide you with a paper copy. Be sure to get and retain that copy.

Records relating to property need to be kept longer. Tax consequences of a transaction, such as a sale of property that occurs this year, may depend on events years ago. Record retention must be measured from the year in which the tax consequences actually occurred. If you bought your home for \$100,000 in 1986, made \$20,000 of capital improvements in 1993, and sell it this year, you must know your basis, i.e., original cost plus later capital improvements. If your return for the year of sale is audited, you may need to produce records relating to the purchase in 1986 and the improvement in 1993 to show your basis. Those records should be kept at least six years after you file your return for the year of sale. You should retain all records relating to home purchases and improvements even if you expect your gain to be covered by the home-sale exclusion. You still need to prove the amount of your basis if IRS asks for it.

When new property takes the basis of old property, records relating to the old property should be kept six years after sale of the new property is reported. If you bought a car for business use in 2008 and traded it in on a new business car in 2011, then sell that car, your basis in the car will determine whether you have a tax gain or tax loss on the sale. Your basis in the car is determined in part by your basis in the car you traded in for it in 2011. Thus, records from your old car should be kept until six years after the year of sale of the new one.

Similar considerations apply to other property like stock in a business corporation or mutual fund, bonds, or other debt securities. If you reinvest dividends to purchase additional shares of stock, each reinvestment is a separate stock purchase. Records of each reinvestment should be kept at least six years after the return is filed for the year the stock is sold.

Because calculation of casualty and theft loss deduction is determined in part by your basis in the damaged or stolen property, you need records to support that basis for six years after you file the return claim-

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ing the loss deduction.

Electronic record storage. You may keep tax records in electronic form instead of or in addition to paper copies. The periods for keeping electronic records are the same as for paper records. If tax records are stored on your computer's hard drive, back it up to an external storage device or on paper.

Record loss or destruction. To safeguard records against theft, fire or other disaster, consider keeping your most important records in a safe deposit box or other safe place outside your home. Also, keep portable copies of your most important records in an easily accessible location so you can take them if you must leave quickly in an emergency.

If records are lost or destroyed, it may be possible to reconstruct them. A paid tax return preparer is required by law to retain for three years copies of tax returns or a list of taxpayers for whom returns were prepared. Most preparers comply by retaining copies (sometimes longer than the legally required three years) and can furnish a copy. In the case of my own clients, I retain electronic copies of returns indefinitely.

Similarly, other professionals who assist in your transactions may retain records relating to that transaction. A stockbroker through whom you bought securities may be able to help you to determine their basis, and an attorney who represented you in the purchase of your home may retain records relating to its closing. Since you can never be sure third parties will possess the records you need, however, the best method is to keep them yourself in as safe a place as possible.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please call me at 717 735-2027 or visit my website, www.lichty.us.

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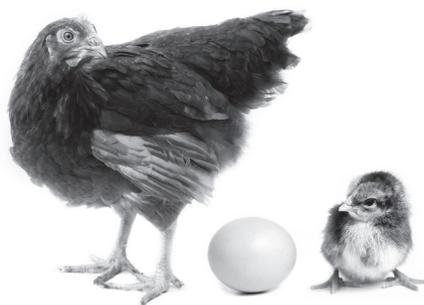
Raising backyard chickens or other poultry can be a rewarding family experience, but daily attention is required to keep your chickens healthy and protect your family. Starting from when you bring home

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new chicks throughout their life, your birds are under constant exposure to harmful pathogens and internal parasites that can wreak havoc with their digestive systems.

Their digestive system is the first layer of defense against intestinal disease, and a healthy digestive system is important for maintaining an active immune system, fueling structural growth, as well as producing high quality eggs. Pathogens and parasites can have dramatic impacts on poultry health and performance, including reduced growth rates, fewer eggs produced, increased medication costs, and death loss.

In the spring when baby chicks may arrive or are at home, it is time to think about keeping your new arrivals and your current flocks healthy and happy. Prevention is the best approach to protecting intestinal health, so know what can cause problems in your backyard flock, but also



be proactive in helping birds to battle harmful pathogens and internal parasites.

Numerous organisms can cause enteric disease, while others can impact multiple body systems, including Salmonella, E. coli and clostridium. Salmonella can impact you and your children's health by causing illness, as well as causing disease in the birds themselves. The birds also shed the disease organism into the environment, where other birds and people may become infected. According to the CDC, in 2012, over 400 cases of reported salmonella in humans (over 37% in children) were attributed to raising backyard poultry. Focus on improving digestive health by preventing pathogens.

Focus first on potential external infection sources. Disease can be transferred when new chicks or new older adult birds are purchased and imported, so quarantine new arrivals 4-6 weeks from the rest of the flock. This gives plenty of time to determine if they are sick and prevents them from exposing your flock.

Your backyard flock can also be exposed to

pathogens via their water. While providing fresh, clean water may seem like enough, take the extra step of sanitizing the water with the newly introduced Oxy E-100. After sanitizing the water, look for all-natural supplements that, when added to water, give a comprehensive approach to improving intestinal health. Research shows that adding targeted proteins (to address salmonella, E. coli and clostridium), probiotics, prebiotics, enzymes and yucca to your flock's water daily can dramatically improve intestinal health and improve your birds' ability to resist harmful disease. New HealthyFlock™ Tabs include all the above ingredients, and with one tablet per gallon can help target pathogens, reduce shedding of those pathogens and improve intestinal health.

Internal parasites, better known as worms, can impact your bird's health and performance. They can also lead to an unsightly discovery in the poultry yard, coop, or in worst-case scenarios, the egg. Roundworms, tapeworms, thread worms, hairworms and caecal worms are most common in backyard flocks. Anytime birds are out on dirt (after the last frost in spring and until the first hard freeze in the fall), they are at risk for contracting a worm infestation. There are currently no commercial de-wormers approved by water administration for laying hens. But now there is Zyfund™ A, an all-natural, safe, non-synthetic water supplement that has proven successful in off-setting worm related issues in large organic and natural certified layer flocks. It requires no egg discard, so you and your family can continue to eat the eggs!

A healthy digestive tract leads to healthier, happier backyard flocks. Focusing on these three areas can enhance your desire to produce healthy, wholesome food for your family and make it a rewarding experience.

For more information on backyard chicken raising tips and Backyard Chicken™ products, go to www.dbcagproducts.com or contact us 717-509-5724. Backyard Chicken Health Pack was developed by DBC Ag Products. We have been providing products that improve bird health, productivity, egg quality/safety and most importantly, effective salmonella control programs in commercial laying operations for over 25 years. The ingredients in Backyard Chicken Health Pack are being proven every day in millions of chicks, pullets and layers, including organic and natural certified flocks.

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Continued from page 1

sion. During the summer she lifeguards and teaches swimming classes at the local community pool. She also spent time on youth mission trips to New Orleans, Michigan and Vermont. Mikaela plans to study nutrition at Messiah College.

Atalie Winters, daughter of Ken and Michelle Winters of Strasburg, attends Lampeter-Strasburg High School. Her 4-H participation included Swine, Woolies and Market Goat Clubs, all in which she held offices. She was a member of the Livestock Judging Team that won the state competition in 2013. She was active in the Garden Spot Chapter of FFA, serving as its secretary and was a Lampeter Fair Queen contestant. Atalie volunteered during the 2013 fall semester in the 4-H office at the Farm and Home Center. Her church involvement includes assistance in nursery, children's church and VBS, as well as participation in

mission trips to New York City, Philadelphia and Brazil. Next fall Atalie will study agribusiness management on the main campus of Penn State University.

Amy Wood, senior at Warwick High School, is the daughter of Geoffrey and Marie Wood, Lititz. In the past year she was co-captain of the school's cross country team and co-president of both the French Honor Society and Amnesty International. In her junior year she received the Family and Consumer Science Scholar Award. Amy is assistant teacher of the advanced beginner class at Hooley School of Irish Dance. She is an altar server at her church and babysits regularly. Her Girl Scout project of planting an herb garden, teaching cooking classes, and creating an herb cookbook resulted in her receiving a Gold Award. Amy's plans are to attend Immaculata University to major in nutrition/dietetics.

The Elmer L. Esbshade Trust Fund was endowed in 1966 by one of the Foundation's organizers. Its purpose is to support scholarships benefitting graduating seniors from Lancaster County whose careers require study in agriculture, consumer sciences or family living. The Trust earnings are supplemented by budgeted funds of the Foundation, in keeping with its charitable mission goals. Thus far, a total of 470 scholarships have been awarded having a cumulative value of \$553,800.

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If you have moved, changed your name, or prefer to be removed from our mailing list, please contact us by mail, email (info@farmandhomecenter.com), or phone/fax (717-392-4911). Thank you!