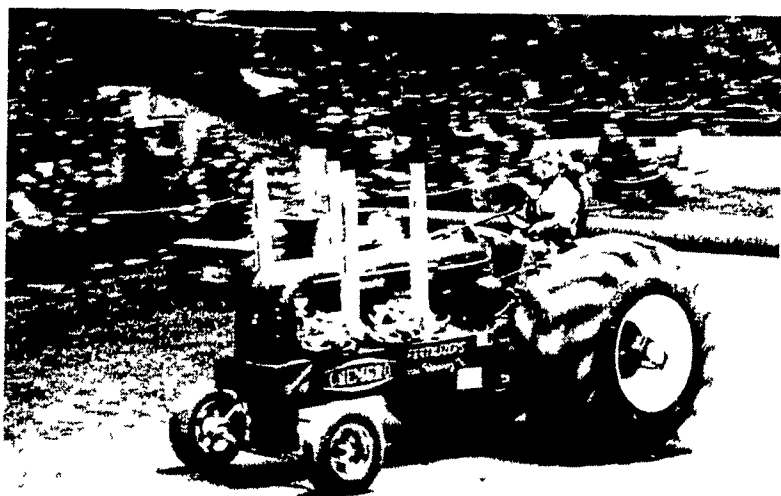


Lancaster Farming

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Lancaster Farming Photo

Vernon Miller, East Petersburg, was one of the contestants at Saturday night's national tractor pull in Harrisburg. He competed in the 7000 and 9000 pound modified classes, driving a Cockshutt with twin 440 Dodge engines.

12,000 at Tractor Pull in Harrisburg

Roaring thunder, spitting lightning, straining almost to the point of destruction (and sometimes past it), tractors from all over the country competed last Friday and Saturday nights at the Harrisburg Farm Show Arena in the first annual Pennsylvania Winter National Tractor Pull.

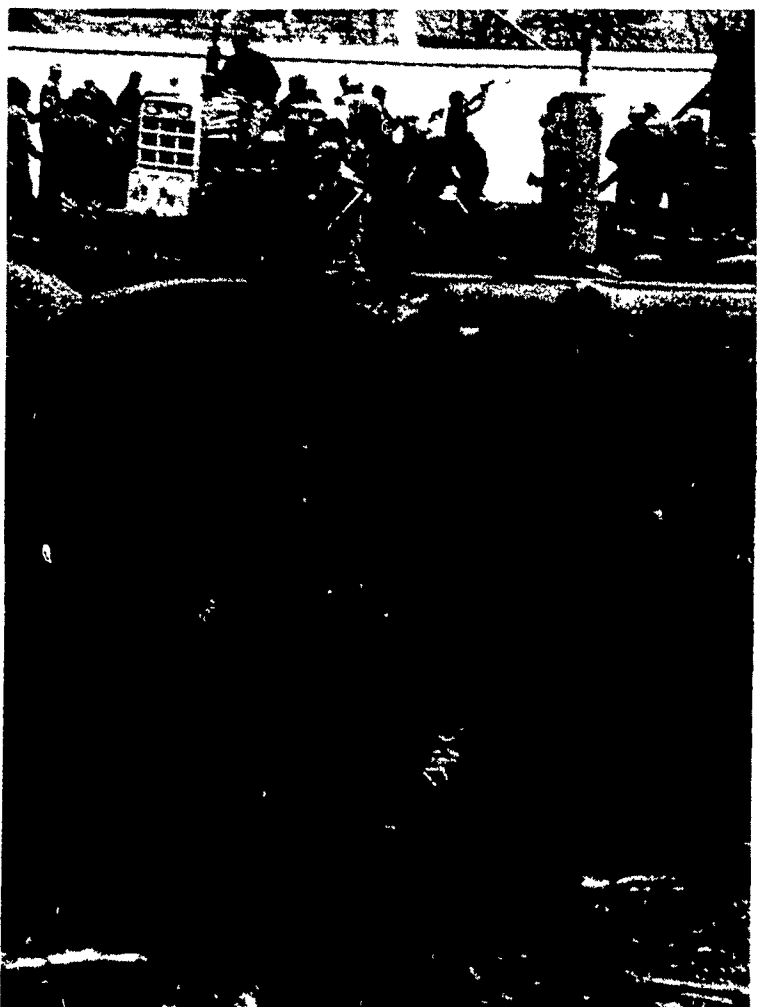
Tractors were divided into seven classes, from 5000 pound stock to the 12,000 pound open class. They battled both nights for \$10,500 in prize money before some 12,000 paid spectators.

There were quite a few local contestants at the meet, but most

of the prize money went to midwesterners who've been competing for many more years than the local drivers

What is considered by many the glamor event of tractor pulling, the 12,000 pound open class, was won by Jim Wood, an Illinois driver. Wood drove a Cockshutt tractor with a Continental air-cooled V-12 tank engine. He pulled a load of about 17 tons down a 200-foot path to beat out his closest rival, Ralph Chamberlain. Chamberlain pilots a 1500 hp brute powered by an Allison aircraft engine.

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Lancaster Farming Photo

This ruined tractor was one of the pieces of equipment destroyed in the Foreman barn fire. Volunteers in the background are standing where the barn used to be.

To Fight Contract Ruling . . .

Legal Fund to Aid Wolgemuths Begun

A state-wide legal defense fund has been started to help a Mount Joy feed company battle a decision by the Pennsylvania Sales Tax Bureau to levy a six percent use tax on feed, fuel and litter used in contract broiler operations.

Wolgemuth Brothers, the company involved, has been fighting the tax ruling since mid-1972. The tax bureau contends that the feed, fuel and litter Wolgemuth supplies to its contract growers aren't eligible for the agricultural sales and use tax exemptions, since the growers don't actually buy them. And Wolgemuth Brothers aren't entitled to the exemption because they aren't actually engaged in farming.

Industry spokesmen say that Wolgemuth's standard contract isn't at all unusual in the industry. Apparently, the tax bureau is using Wolgemuth as a test case. If the bureau is successful, then many observers feel the state's poultry industry will be in big trouble. There's also the possibility that other contract operations besides poultry would be affected.

At a special board of directors meeting in Harrisburg last Tuesday, the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation voted to start a fund to help the Wolgemuths defray court costs of fighting the tax bureau. The minimum legal

fees expected if the case reaches the courts could total \$25,000.

At the meeting the board also adopted a resolution saying that there was a definite need to get a court ruling on the Wolgemuth case. The resolution did not however say whether or not the federation agreed or disagreed with the tax board's action.

Kenneth Longacre, federation

president said that anyone wishing to make a donation to the legal defense fund could do so by sending a check payable to the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation to the federation office at 3807 Paxton Street, Harrisburg, Pa. 17111. All checks should be marked for the "Agricultural Contract Sales Tax Legal Fund."

"Property Taxes Are Too Low"

"Property taxes in Lancaster County are too low," the Lancaster Advertising Club was told Wednesday night during their regular monthly meeting at Tom Paine's Restaurant. Speaking was Dr. Will Lyons, professor of economics at Franklin & Marshall College.

It is this newspaper's happy duty to report that people at the meeting made no attempt to assault Dr. Lyons, either physically or verbally. Lyons explained that he felt property taxes at their current rates were designed to attract "cut and sew" industries which use low paying unskilled labor, thereby driving away industries which use highly paid skilled labor.

He cited the example of an optical company in Brookline which was forced to move out of the city by a government outlying project. Working for the company are skilled, highly paid engineers, scientists and optical technicians. "The company officers were considering Lancaster and a place in Massachusetts," Lyons said. "They observed that the owner of a given house in Lancaster might pay \$200 a year in property taxes. For the same house in Massachusetts, he might pay over a thousand. So they moved to Massachusetts, because they felt our tax base couldn't support the kind of schools and social services the company's labor force would demand. They felt their people wouldn't move to Lancaster County as willingly as they'd move to Massachusetts."

While he felt that there were other areas, besides taxes that need improvement, Lyons did say that Lancaster County has had a long tradition of success. "I would say that today the county is one of the richest areas in the country. In terms of wealth, it's one of the ten richest."

He pointed out that the county has a very balanced economy, with an agricultural base and a lot of high class industry such as printing and machining. He also said there were two multipliers which bring outside money into

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\$75,000 Lost In Barn Fire

A massive clean up operation was conducted last Saturday to get rid of the debris from a barn fire two days earlier on the farm of Jay R. Foreman, Lititz R1.

Foreman estimates his loss at about \$75,000, most of which is covered by insurance.

About 125 firemen from the Brunnerville, Lititz and Brickerville Fire Companies battled the blaze, but the structure was totally destroyed from the foundation up. The lower part of the barn was saved, however.

"We were fortunate, in a way, that we saved the area under the barn," Foreman said. "We had all our cows there, and all our milking equipment. We didn't lose any livestock at all, and we had almost no damage to the milking equipment."

Foreman said he expects to be milking at his farm again in about a week. His cows are being kept for the time being on the farm of John Farrington, Lititz R2. All but six of the animals were driven out of the barn

before the blaze started in earnest. After firemen had been working for nearly five hours, the six cows were found alive and unharmed in the lower barn.

The fire destroyed a hammer mill and two tractors in addition to other pieces of large equipment.

In addition to the barn and equipment, there were tons of straw, hay and other feed destroyed. This was a particularly bad year to lose feed, Foreman pointed out, because the price of dairy feed now is higher than it's ever been.

On Saturday, about 100 people converged on the scene of the fire to clean everything up. Some 75 of the workers were members of Young Farmer groups in the Manheim and Ephrata areas.

They removed smoldering hay and straw from the floor of the barn and spread it in the fields. A subfloor was put onto the burned beams, and covered with plastic sheeting so milking operations could get underway as soon as possible in the lower barn.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, January 27

9:30 a.m. — Red Rose Club Hereford steer call distribution, New Holland Sales Barn

Monday, January 29

7:30 p.m. — Octorara Young Farmers meeting, Vo Ag dept., Octorara H.S.

7:30 p.m. — Red Rose Officers Installation and Degree recipients, New Holland High School Vo-Ag room

7:45 p.m. — Chester County Soils Meeting, "Understanding Soil

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