

Lancaster Farming

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FARM TRENDS

A summary of market
and commodity news
for the past week

by Dick Wanner

Fill Up for the Farm Show

Good weather has been predicted for Farm Show Week, but it probably won't be good enough to inspire anybody to ride their bicycles to the annual event, the world's largest agricultural show under one roof. We hope lots and lots of area folks will get to the show (Lancaster Farming will be there all week), but we hope nobody gets stranded without gas. Fill your gas tank before you leave, because there'll be an awful lot of people in Harrisburg wanting to buy an awful lot of gas. And fill your car, too. The more people you take along, the less competition there'll be for available parking.

Triplet Calves Born Near Union

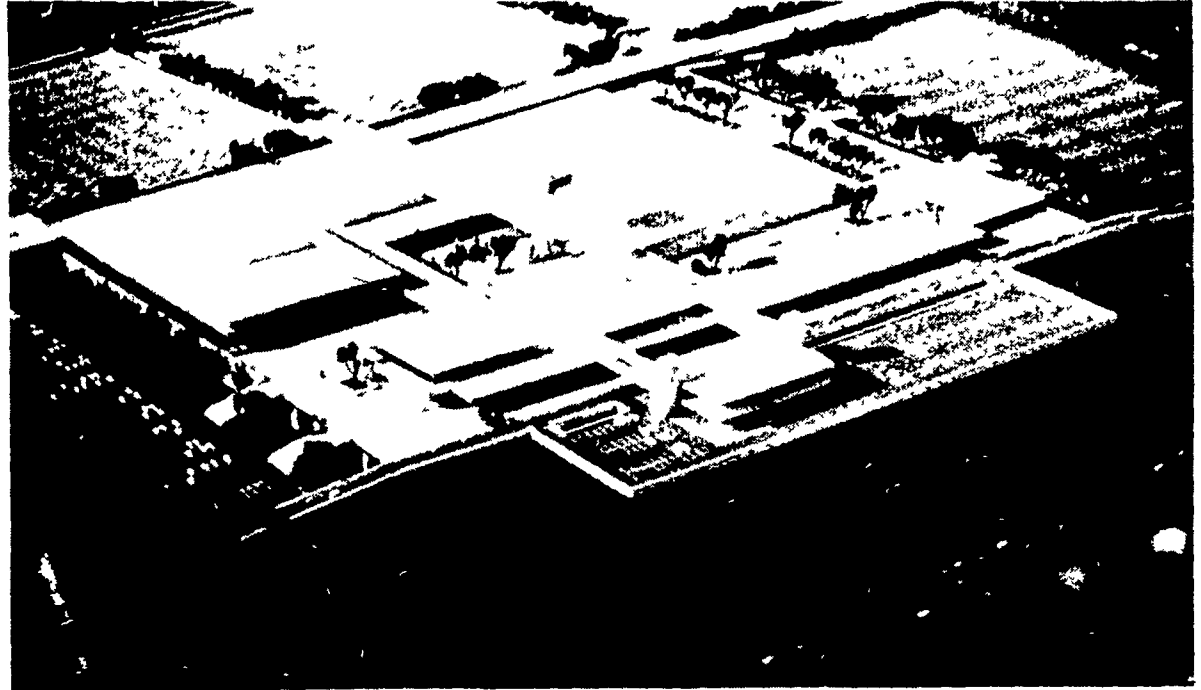
The blessed event last Sunday on the Robert Weickel farm in Southern Lancaster County saw the birth of not one, not two, but three calves, all living and all healthy. The hungry triplets, two bulls and a heifer, were the result of a mating between a Brown Swiss bull and a Holstein dam. Mrs. Weickel said the calves were only a little smaller than normal, and needed a little help at first in nursing, but there were no problems at all.

Do You Want Bulls or Heifers? Breeding By Design

Genetics researchers are searching for ways of guaranteeing, more or less, the sex of calves from artificially bred cattle. Several methods are under intensive study at the moment. Livestock experts have expressed interest in the studies, but most are maintaining a "show-me" attitude. Two techniques have been developed for separating male and female sperm, and one group of researchers has developed a vaccine which makes female mice allergic to male sperm. This allergy markedly increases the odds in favor of a female conception.

Futures Prices Up

A look at the futures prices in this week's market pages shows a jump from last week in all categories. February Chicago cattle futures are up \$2.55 from last week, hogs are up \$2.65. March potatoes moved up 38 cents, gaining some ground lost the previous week, and fresh egg contracts moved up a bit. Live steer prices on local auctions were holding firm, but still nowhere near the 55-cent market many



This architect's drawing of the proposed Keystone Exposition Center is just a gleam in the collective eye of a growing legion of Pennsylvania farm leaders. If it were built, the center would replace the present Farm Show complex, and provide facilities for

many more events than can be held in the present facilities. The \$150-million complex would, it is hoped, be self-supporting and be in at least partial operation by 1976.

Will it Replace Farm Show Building?

Support Mounts for Keystone Exposition

Question: What was built on a dump, is subject to flooding, causes traffic jams, has a leaky roof, rotting plumbing and not enough parking?

Answer: The Pennsylvania Farm Show complex.

Question: What is the Keystone Exposition Center?

Answer: None of the above. Proposals to shut the doors of the Pennsylvania Farm Show complex have been kicking around Harrisburg ever since the

Scranton administration. Built on a landfill in 1929, the facility is thought by many to be outmoded and unattractive. Whatever legislative sentiment may have been for a new complex, though,

the project's cost kept it little more than a glimmer in the eyes of many Pennsylvania farm leaders

One of those leaders was Dr. Norman Reber, editor of Pennsylvania Farmer Magazine. In his speeches and editorials, Reber kept plugging for a new facility. His persistence was rewarded last summer by a

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Annual Farm Show Issue

Conservation Case History No. 2

Earl Smoker - Committed To Conservation Farming

(Editor's Note This is the second in a series of interviews with Lancaster County farmers who have embraced the idea of farming with conservation practices. In the past, farmers have been able to choose whether or not they want to use conservation as a farm management tool. Pennsylvania law would

remove the element of choice from that decision by making conservation plans mandatory for all farmers by 1977. We hope that these interviews will help to explain the different aspects of conservation farming as they apply to individual farm operations. More information about conservation can be had by

contacting the Soil Conservation Service, Lancaster County Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road Lancaster.)

Earl Smoker is a firm believer in conservation and in the future of Lancaster County farming. The Stevens RD1 dairyman in-

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Conservation farmer Earl Smoker is a firm believer in the value of terraces and strip cropping, and he employs both practices on his Stevens RD1 dairy farm. Smoker installed terraces in 1969, and says he's glad he did.