

Conservationists Elect Officers

Robert Wagner, a Quarryville R2 dairy farmer, was named to the Conservation District board of directors at a recent district meeting in the Farm and Home Center. Wagner was appointed to the board by the Lancaster County Commissioners to fill the unexpired term of Robert G. Brubaker, Elizabethtown R3.

Brubaker, a member of the board for the past three-and-a-half years, resigned because he is moving his farming operation to Dover, Minn., in March. Brubaker had been appointed to the board when Henry Hackman resigned to become the district's executive assistant.

At the same meeting, the directors elected officers for the coming year. All were reelected. Aaron Z. Stauffer,



Robert Wagner, left, Quarryville R2, bids hello and goodbye to Robert Brubaker, Elizabethtown R3.

Ephrata R1, was named chairman, Amos H. Funk, Millersville R1, remains as vice-chairman, and Mrs. Nancy J. Burkhardt, Strasburg R1, continues as secretary-treasurer.

Other appointments were: Kenneth Depoe, Mount Joy, R1, publicity chairman; Amos Funk, legislative contact, and Aaron Stauffer, executive council.

Reader's Corner

+Editor's Note: One of the busiest spots in any newspaper office is the wastebasket. We recall one farm editor who told the tale of sorting through his mail at home one evening, tossing away at least half of the envelopes unopened.

"Why are you doing that?" his wife asked. "You're not even reading them!" "Why should I read them," he replied, "I know what they don't say."

We pride ourselves at Lancaster Farming on at least opening the envelopes. Although we still have a busy wastebasket.

But every once in awhile, we open an envelope and just don't know what to do with the contents. This is particularly true of some of the things our readers send us.

What for example do you do with a long poem about a baby bull calf?

Well, we decided to print it here in a space called "The Readers' Corner". It might be the only Readers' Corner we'll ever have. Or it might be the first of many. It's up to our readers.

It takes time, thought, effort and a 10-cent stamp to send something to a newspaper. It would just not be right to give these things the same treatment we give to the less than earth-shattering news that pours in a steady stream from public relations types and government bureaus.

While PR types and bureaucrats do give us valuable information - some of it we even print - their mass-produced news releases don't have the same ring about them that the contributions from our readers have.

Newborn Bull Calf

Here's a tip for human beings
And no word of it is chaff,
You may thank your luck star-beams
That you were not born a calf.

Life for you may not be roses.
But I'm telling you right now
That you'd have some cause for heartache
If the off-spring of a cow.

All last week the sun shone brightly
That except of course at night,
Then the moon took up the burden
And it furnished not bad light.

I looked on in happy wonder
Everything was new to me
And I thought that this old planet
Was a great grand place to be.

But they tell me lanes are lengthy
That are built without a turn,
And I found they might turn sharply
And that there was much to learn.

Like a bolt of vivid lightning
From the sky both blue and clear
I was taken from my mother

And was paneled off in here.

That was bad enough, I figured,
No green grass, just old dry hay.
Not a single ray of sunshine,
Not a chance to run and play.

But all this was not a starter
Now that I've had time to think
To what happened when my master
Came to teach me how to drink.

By now I was most awful thirsty
And had quite an appetite
And it would have been no trouble
Had he gone about it right.

But he backed me in the corner,
Placed himself astride my neck,
Pushed my nose down in the liquid -
I inhaled about a peck.

Held me there till I was dizzy,
Till I knew not north from south,
And then, as if for added insult,
Stuck his fingers in my mouth.

And those fingers! "Tasty, tasty".
Where he had them, I don't know,
But I know that taste will follow
As on down the years I go.

Then my mighty indignation
Came to force with one great bound
And from there unto the finish
He and I went round and round.

First I spilt the milk and floored him,
Then he hit me with the pail,
And I kicked him on the knee cap,
When he tried to twist my tail.

One swift kick I side-stepped neatly
And it hit the wall instead
And because I want this printed
I won't tell you what he said.

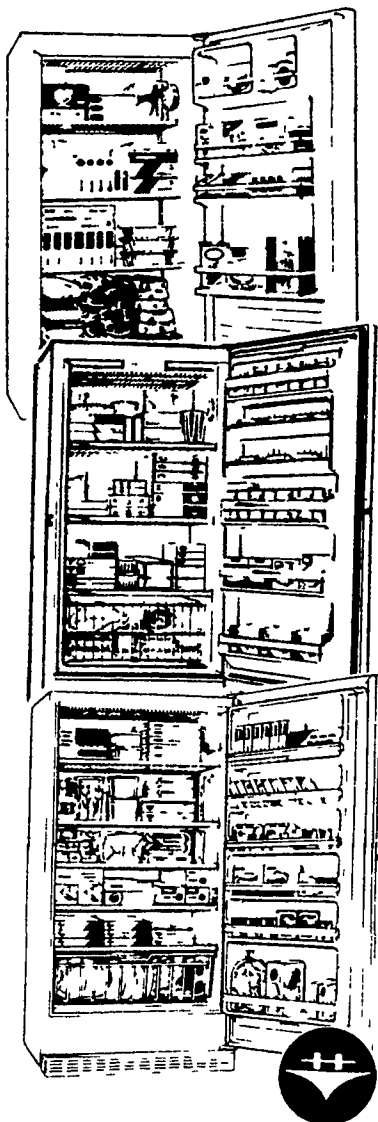
But he landed one in parting
That connected with my jaw.
So I guess when points are counted
This round ended in a draw.

But I know he'll win the finals,
That's what fills my path with thorns,
And I cannot keep from wishing
Week-old calves had full-grown horns.

For I know he'll starve me to it,
Nature presses her demands,
But I hope before next lesson
He, at least, will wash his hands.

(Contributed by a Bird-in-Hand dairy farmer, who prefers to remain anonymous.)

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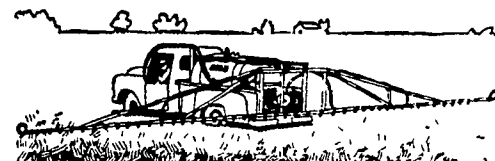
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