# "Mini-farmer" Hopes To Start Co-op Here

[Continued From Page 1]

those people worked. We talked about getting feed, raising crops, where to find a good vet, or good used equipment."

That meeting, Erb said, opened his eyes to the potential for a cooperative organization for minifarmers. The first public meeting of the infant organization will be held at 8:00 p.m., Friday, March 21, at the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant in Lancaster, Erb said. "We hope all the minifarmers in Lancaster County can be there. We've already contacted a lot of people we thought might be interested. and so far, nobody's said they won't come." More information about the meeting can be had by calling the Erbs at 717-872-

**AMALIE** 

PENNSYLVANIA

**MOTOR OIL** 

Alternators.

**STAR ROUTE 655** 

What, exactly, is a mini- don't find in town." farmer, we asked Erb. "There's no official definition," he replied, "but I think of a mini-farmer as someone with a few acres who's farming more for selfsufficiency and fun than profit. We're not against farming for a profit, but there are other cooperatives for those farmers.

"You know, living out here has been really enjoyable. Our neighbors have helped us tremendously. Like last fall, we butchered two steers. We didn't know when the steers were ready to go to the butcher shop. One of our neighbors had to tell us they were ready. We had to learn a lot about farming, and they've been a big help. There's a kind of rural attitude - neighbors helping neighbors - that you just

**DEUTZ & LISTER** 

**BELLEVILLE. PA 17004** 

**ENGINES** 

**BYLERS** 

DIESEL and REFRIGERATION SHOP

**DISTRIBUTOR** 

**SALES and SERVICE** 

GIRTON BULK MILK COOLERS

Automatic Diesel Engine or Electric Operation

Equipment P.T.O or Diesel Drive Stand-by

In Stock 20 - 7-16" thick steel tanks

1690 gals.

can be used for air pressure

WE INSTALL COMPLETE MILK COOLING

**EQUIPMENT IN SUGAR VALLEY, BRUSH** 

**VALLEY & FRANKLIN COUNTY** 

**BEFORE YOU BUY, CONTACT** 

meeting are:

other livestock feeds. Also was done by the Erbs. discussion groups to find out

for which mini-farmers kitchen that was formerly might have occasional use two small rooms. "I'm glad could be purchased as a we didn't." group and shared by all as needed.

with big chores, like building country living. a barn, clearing a woodlot, constructing a pond. Hours raspberry bushes from a worked would be recorded, pasture. They cleared away and when a contributor 25 years of accumulated mini-farm projects, he could barnyard. They cleared would be ideal for isn't really work," Erb said. who could go away for a it." week or two and know that were being watched over by another co-op member.

- A monthly newsletter is planned for all members.

order bulk quantities of

Both Erbs feel that there could be a lot more people moving to the country if they had more encouragement, and if they could talk to through the experience.

One problem is finding land. Erb said he looked for a place for eight years before something came along that he wanted and could afford. Housing can be another stumbling block. The Erb home today is attractive and comfortable, but it took nine months of hard work, before the move, to make it that way. Erb works as an ad-Neighbors helping neigh- vertising representative for bors is, in fact, one of the Lancaster Newspapers. guiding principles behind the Every day after work, for co-op which the Erbs hope to nine long months, Erb left get off the ground. Members the office and went to the would both get and give farm house. He uncovered assistance in buying, selling the old, square logs, some and labor. Some of the obwith the original white wash. jectives which the Erbs hope He scraped floors, he tore to propose at the March 21 down walls, he washed and painted and rewired. Much -The purchase of bulk of the work was done by quantities of hay, grain and contractors, but much more

"Everybody told us at first just what kinds and amounts that the only thing to do was of feed would be best to buy.
- Equipment sharing among members. Items like she sipped coffee in the balers and post hole diggers comfortable, attractive

Having found the land, having solved their housing - Labor banks. Erb feels problems, the Erbs and their cooperative members should two daughters, 7-year-old be able to contribute hours of Lee and 5-year-old Pat, work to help other members began their adventure in

They ripped a jungle of needed help for one of his debris and trash from the make a "withdrawal" from brush and trees out of the labor bank in the form of neglected, once-tillable time and muscle from his fields. It was hard work. fellow cooperators. Erb said "But for me, getting on the the labor bank, if it worked, tractor at the end of the day vacationing mini-farmers, "It's a release. I like to do

The Erbs have a five-yeartheir fields and livestock plan for their property, and right now they feel they're about two years ahead of schedule. Their chickens are providing them with eggs - Ladies auxiliary. Mrs. ("But, they'd be cheaper at Erb said this would be more the store," Erb said), like a garden cooperative to they're eating their own beef, they're thinking about things like seeds, young milking their goats, and plants and household items. they've got a freezer and a pantry full of home grown vegetables.

"Whatever you can do with tomatoes, I've done it," Mrs. Erb said. "Stewed tomatoes, people who'd already lived catsup, tomato paste, tomato

juice, relish . . . ". Last year they even sold some of their sweet corn. Erb said they sold 800 dozen ears of corn at 14 ears to the dozen - for 50-cents a dozen. It was all hand harvested, as was the field corn.

There is nothing in the five-year plan that calls for making a profit from their farming operation. The Erbs are working only for a way of life and for a measure of selfsufficiency. They hope their cooperative idea catches on. so they can help and en-

courage more people to follow their lead.

"We like this way of life," Erb said, "and we think mini-farmers like us can help preserve much of the farmland around cities and towns. We can help keep the developers out of the country. I've been asked again and again if I'd like to sell off some of my road frontage. I could use the money, sure, but I'm not going to sell. This way of life is too important for me to sell bits and pieces of it."



#### MARCH 3-9, 1975

It's time for that stir in the forest.

Are your grapevines pruned? . . . Stalin died March 5, 1953 ... List quarter of the moon March 4 ... Maple sap running now... Average length of days for week, 11 hours, 23 minutes ... Banks closed March 5, 1933 ... Nine-tailed sea monster spotted off Oregon March 4, 1950 ... Town meetings begin ... Patrols looking for dangerous icebergs start out this week . . . He that is warm thinks all are so.



Ask the Old Farmer: I purchased a device to roll newspapers into logs for the fireplace, but the instructions that came with the gadget called for the rolled newspapers to be impregnated with kerosene. That way, if you keep one in your wood basket, your living room smells of kerosene. C. L. Cleveland.

Yes, you can burn rolled newspapers without putting anything on them, if you do not roll them up too tightly. We have burned them for years, without kerosene, or a gizmo to roll

Home Hints You will find that 4-eyelet buttons stay on children's clothing longer if the thread is sewed through two eyelets first and then fastened securely before sewing through the other pair of eyelets

#### OLD FARMER'S WEATHER FORECASTS

New England: Rain to start, then clearing; rain again latter part but clear and warm by weekend.

Greater New York-New Jersey: Week begins clear and cool, then light to moderate rain; clearing and warmer by weekend. Middle Atlantic Coastal: Cloudy and mild with light rain all

Southeast Coastal-Piedmont: Generally fair and pleasant at first, then some rain; hard rain inland and sleet or snow in mountains latter part.

Florida: Storm by midweek with hard rain and heavy thunderstorms in south.

Upstate & Western N.Y.-Toronto & Montreal: Week begins sunny and seasonably cold, then rain in south and 4-6" snow in north; clear and warm latter part.

Greater Ohio Valley: Cloudy and seasonable to start, then light rain; end of week stormy with heavy snow in east by weekend.

Deep South: Showers at first, then clear and warm: heavy rain latter part in north and east with rain turning to snow in northeast.

Chicago & Southern Great Lakes: Week begins mild with light rain, then rain changing to 3-5" snow; snowstorm continues with 3-5" snow in west and 8-10" in east. Northern Great Plains-Great Lakes: Cold with intermittent light

snow all week. Central Great Plains: Fair and warm to start, then showery

vith light rain and snow in no Texas-Oklahoma: Clear and mild to midweek, then becoming

very warm; end of week warm and clear. Rocky Mountain Region: Week begins mostly clear and warm,

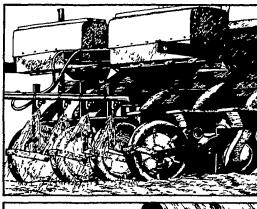
then showers in north; mild and cloudy latter part and turning colder with flurries in north.

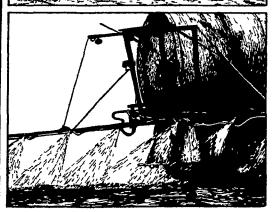
Southwest Desert: Early week clear and hot with highs in mid-80s; end of week cooler with cold snap in east.

Pacific Northwest: Clear and mild to start in south, then light rain; end of week partly sunny with light shower.

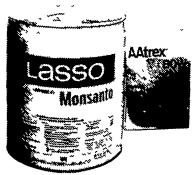
(All Rights Reserved, Yankee, Inc., Dublin, N.H. 03444) I"ATTENTION"

## Apply your herbicide at the ideal time in corn:





### Lasso Plus atrazine.



Apply Lasso plus atrazine tank mix as you plant, or after planting, before corn or weeds come up . with or without liquid fertilizers

Either way, you can plant as soon as your seedbed's ready-and still get the early grass and broadleaf control you need

What's more, your herbicide goes on when the seedbed's in ideal condition for herbicide application.



AAtrex is a registered trademark of Always read and follow the Lasso label HERBICIDE BY Monsanto

#### **CATTLEMEN . . . We Specialize** in shipping fever medications.

intra-Nasal and intra-Muscular Vaccine We offer a complete medication program . Cattle off feed, poor appetite, worms bloat, diarrhea, lice, foot rot, and respiratory conditions

# Repair Service & Sales.



STOCK PRODS BATTERIES **WOOD CANES** ANIMAL CLIPPERS BLADES **COW TRAINERS** THIBENZOLE WORMER PELLETS -BOLUSES

HEATED LIVESTOCK WATERERS. FARM GATES, AND HOG FEEDERS.

#### ZIMMERMAN'S ANIMAL HEALTH SUPPLY

R.D.#4, Lititz, Pa. 17543 Phone 717-733-4466 3 miles W. of Ephrata along WOODCORNER ROAD