

One last look

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6, issue, and it has with the paper ever. The feature - a cartoon "Rural Route," is by free-lance artist Armstrong of Seller- who is a 1955 graduate in State with a degree in animal science. was a member of the stock judging team and at one time been herded for one of the largest bred Angus herds in the. Then eight years in cultural business with a

farm machinery dealer brought him in direct contact with the farmer.

Armstrong describes "Rural Route" as a cartoon which will feature a farm family, with the farmer as the main character. The farmer is an honest, hard working man with perhaps an above average dislike for bureaucracy, red tape, and the interference by others in his chosen profession.

HOG CHOLERA HITS

The swine industry was jarred in early March when hog cholera, a highly in-

fectious viral disease affecting that particular livestock species only, was confirmed in several herds along the eastern seaboard. New Jersey and Massachusetts received the brunt of the attack, and alerts and embargoes were issued immediately to keep the disease from spreading. For the next several months, hog cholera continued to make the news.

John Weaver, a member of the Garden Spot Young Farmers Association, was chosen that organization's outstanding member at a meeting held at the Blue Ball Fire Hall.

The fertilizer situation for 1976 was described as one which would be adequate, in contrast to noticeable shortages in previous years. Distribution was cited as being a problem, however.

Due to the adequate supplies, fertilizer prices came down as much as 50 per cent from 1975.

FARMERS RESIST

In spite of lower fertilizer costs, however, it was noted that farmers were not leaping into the cabs of their trucks in order to haul in the stuff at "bargain prices." The word was that farmers believed the previously much higher prices to be contrived, and since they had to improvise the two or

three years before, they could manage that way again in 1976.

Meanwhile, fertilizer production plants were sprouting up all over the world in order to help fill the food and fibre demands of a constantly growing population.

Another big shortage which made the news during 1974 and 1975, was getting attention in 1976. As with the fertilizer situation, canning lids were to be more abundant. Major manufacturing companies reported that they had their factories humming at top capacity in order to meet the demands.

There was no consumer resistance here, but neither was there an overabundance of canning supplies as an estimated 35 million gardens were involved. Production of lids was reported to be twice of that of 1975.

On another angle, involving fertilizer, Dow Chemical Corporation unveiled a new product called "N-Serve," which was said to have the potential to open "a whole new ball game in agriculture." The product was reported to boost yields while lowering the needs of actual N applied.

Agriculture was becoming increasingly more important, both at home and abroad. "There's a new awareness of agriculture sweeping across the country, I am extremely optimistic about the future of agriculture," said James

Beattie, Dean of Penn State's College of Agriculture in a speech delivered at the annual meeting of the Lebanon County Extension Service.

VINTAGE STABLES SOLD

Controlling interest in the Vintage Sales Stables, Vintage, changed hands in early March when Mr. and Mrs. Robert Frame of Uwchland, Chester County, purchased shares formerly belonging to Harold Hess and John Huber.

The Berks-Lehigh County Pork Producers held their annual banquet in March and chose Joan Dietrich as their queen.

Broiler production, which had never really been weak, forged ahead with a strong trend which held true for the rest of the year.

Claude Hetherington of Zion Grove, who produced 785 tons of tomatoes on 30 acres, was named the state champion tomato grower for 1975 in the hand harvest 25 to 50 acre class.

OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST

On March 15, the Lancaster County Conservation District named K.D. Linde of Oxford R1 the "Outstanding Conservation Cooperator for 1976. Later in the year, Linde again made the news by having the highest producing Guernsey herd in the state.

Johnsongrass was beginning to become more of a problem in the mid-Atlantic states. The state of Maryland therefore beefed up its control program which has its roots in a 1969 legislative act. An estimated 66,000 acres were infected with Johnsongrass in Maryland in 1975.

Otto and Herbert Schick of Kutztown won grand and reserve grand champion honors, respectively, at a

swine carcass show for Lehigh, and Berks counties. Lancaster County swine producers held their carcass show that same week and saw Dale Nolt of Manheim walk away with grand champion honors.

At a meeting of Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative in late March, Public Relations Director Lisle Dutton warned area producers that "homeless milk" could become a condition to be reckoned with later in the year. He made the comment in reference to production gains. Milk production, in fact, could set an all time high for 1976 if USDA calculations are correct.

In a related matter, it was announced that the Sealtest plant would close in Philadelphia, thereby leaving one less outlet for the dairy farmer's milk. Other bottling plants and dairy cooperatives were reportedly in a position to cushion any ill effect.

BERKS COUNTY CORRESPONDENT HIRED

It was during March of last year that Judy Mitchell, Berks County correspondent, was introduced to Lancaster Farming readers. She has been covering that portion of the paper's circulation area ever since.

High winds swept through parts of Lancaster County and surrounding areas in late March, destroying several barns and some contents.

The plan to dismantle state hospital farms came under fire during the Spring of 1976 and before it was all over, some heated debates and arguments had been heard. The state farms were threatened with extinction due to skyrocketing costs - particularly labor expenses. Employees at the institutions are paid according to union negotiations.

Mrs. Kenneth Stoner of Elm received national recognition last year, according to a story printed in the April 3 issue of Lancaster Farming. Her accomplishment was having a recipe for corn fritters published for national distribution.

Dale and Norman Rothmel were cited in March of 1976 for having the highest producing herd on DHIA in Schuylkill County. Pennfield Feeds recognized 34 Pennsylvania dairymen in late March for

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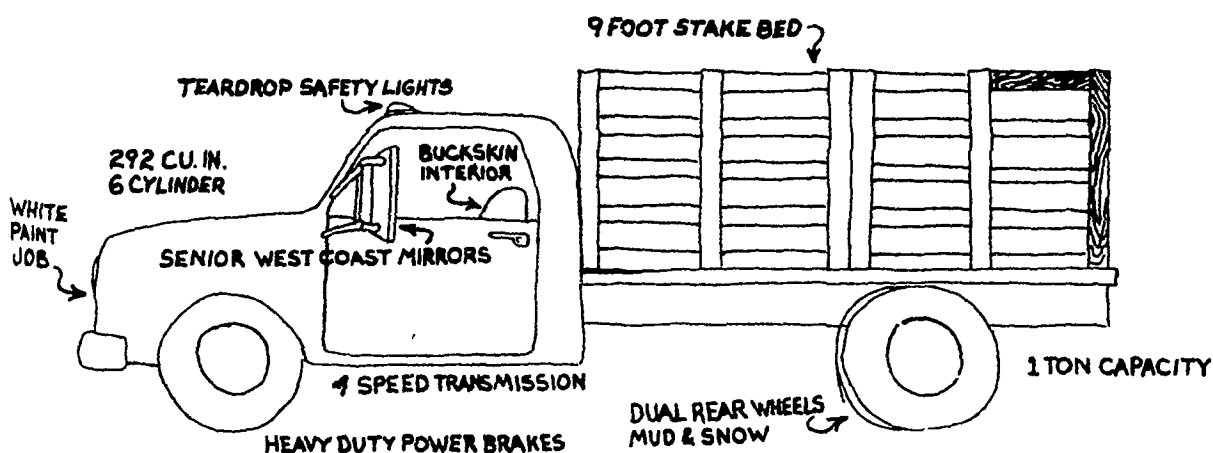
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