

## Reading Fair cancelled

By LAUREL SCHAEFFER  
Berks County Reporter  
READING, Pa. - The Reading Fair has been cancelled for 1977. This decision was made recently by the 12 member board of directors. "June is not a good month," Wayne Readinger, vice president of the Fair, told Lancaster Farming. "It is too early for farm crop displays and also too early for 4-Her's. The people are not fair minded this early in the season. Schools are just ending and vacations are on everyone's minds."

Also cited as reasons for the decision were the problems involved with Muhlenberg Township's curfew. Readinger said he felt all the directors regretted the move and he felt the fair wouldn't be very successful in June. Also, it was too late to move it to another more suitable date. The directors are planning to resume the fair in 1978,

however. They are going to try to move it back to the original date which is the second week of September or to the latter part of August. The fair was originally moved to June because the school cooperation wasn't very good, Readinger said.

When asked if there would be a substitute for the 4-H and FFA members, Readinger explained that they couldn't do it. This was because the prize money comes from the state and from the fair on a 50-50 basis and there would be no way to raise the money this year. The fair has built a new livestock barn in recent years and plans to use it in 1978. There are plans to expand the building in the future so the fair may be bigger and better when it returns. "To have a successful fair" Readinger said, "you need a midway carnival, a good farm crop, and livestock display and the peoples interest."

HARRISBURG, Pa. - An estimated 52,000 Pennsylvania cattle farms had 1,960,000 cattle and calves on hand January 1, 1977, unchanged from a year earlier, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. The inventory value of \$656,600,000 compares with \$607,600,000.

The milk cow inventory on 24,000 dairy farms was 706,000, the same as a year earlier. Milk replacement heifers 500 pounds and over at 221,000 were also unchanged.

The inventory of beef cows at 196,000 was down six per cent, while beef cow replacement heifers 500 pounds and over at 51,000 were down four per cent. Other heifers 500 pounds and over numbered 69,000, unchanged from a year earlier, while steers 500 pounds and over at 294,000 were up 20 per cent. Bulls 500 pounds and over were also up to 51,000 or nine percent over a year ago. Calves, steers, heifers and bulls under 500 pounds, at 372,000, were off nine per cent.

The 1976 Pennsylvania calf crop was 790,000, down one per cent or 10,000 from the 1975 crop.

All cattle and calves in the United States on January 1, 1977 are estimated at 122.9 million head, down four per cent from a year earlier and seven per cent below January 1, 1975. This is the sharpest percentage decline since 1948 and represents the second consecutive year of herd reduction in the current cattle cycle.

All cows and heifers that have calves, at 52.4 million head, are down four per cent from January 1, 1976. The number on July 1, 1976, at

53.9 million, was down seven per cent from a year earlier. Milk cows at 11.0 million are down one and two per cent from January 1, 1976 and January 1, 1975, respectively.

The 1976 United States calf crop is estimated at 47.4 million, down six per cent from 1975 and seven per cent below 1974.

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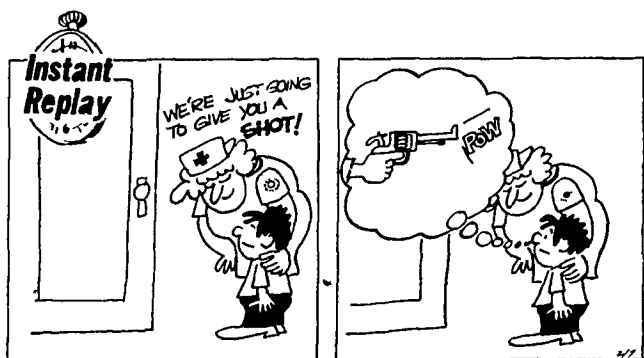
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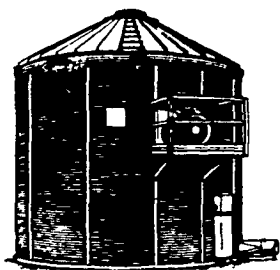
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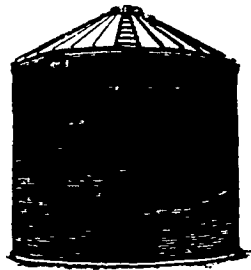
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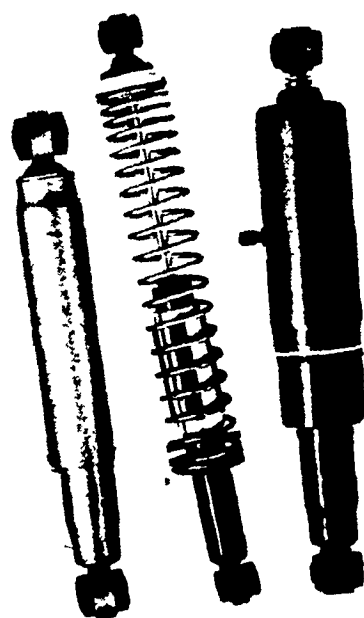
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