

## Church group slates farm issues forum

MOUNT PLEASANT, Pa. - Current issues affecting farming will be discussed next month at an "Affirmation of Farming Event" to be held at the Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, near here. The program is sponsored by the church group and will be in progress for three days.

Registration begins at 5 p.m. on March 11. At 6:30 p.m. supper will be served and an hour later it's "get acquainted time." Participants are asked to bring a set of six to 12 slide photographs to introduce their farming operations.

The week-end retreat is billed as providing farmers from

many areas the opportunity to share concerns and issues related to agriculture. Specific topics will include: land use, corporation and partnership models, estate planning in terms of new tax laws, and how the new administration in Washington is likely to affect farming. The group will also look at the increasingly important role of the farmer as world population increases.

Resource persons to lead discussions on the above topics include Hubert Schwartztruber, Delton Franz, Orland Gingerich, Dwight Stoltzfus, Dieter Krieg, and Arnold Cressman.

Aside from the above topics, those in attendance are encouraged to bring up agenda items of their own.

The Laurelville Mennonite Church Center is both a program and a place. It gives itself to the needs of persons and groups of all denominations and backgrounds. It is open all year, changing with the seasons in the beautiful Laurel Highlands of western Pennsylvania. It offers a wide variety of options in facilities, food, service, worship experiences, and program choices for young and old, for small groups and large.

Farmers interested in attending the program should contact the Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, Route 5, Box 145, Mount Pleasant, Pa. 15666. The phone number is 412-423-2056. The registration fee for the program is \$8 per person.

## Lamb club holds meeting

YORK, Pa. - A tentative schedule for the York Fair sheep show was drawn up at the February meeting of the York County 4-H Lamb Club. The group met at the 4-H Center near Bair, Pa. Mac McGuigan, a dealer of

a nationally known brand of feed, showed a filmstrip on sheep. He also gave away a few door prizes.

The next meeting of the group will be on March 3. Docking and castrating of lambs will be the main topic.

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## Families return

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them know that having them was a beautiful experience," Mrs. Blank says. "And, it is - it may be the most beautiful experience of a couple's life."

Also, when the husband works with the wife in the classes, he learns to understand her moods and why she reacts to situations in the manner in which she does. "Sometimes he can even make a joke out of it," Mrs. Blank says.

In her series of classes, the fathers are required to come to three evening sessions with their wives. Mrs. Blank also holds a fourth half-day session just for the mothers in which they practice exercises together and have a simulated labor. This exercise meeting is optional, and as long as the couple comes to three consecutive meetings, they receive a certificate for completing the course. If the women choose to have their babies in the hospital, Mrs. Blank also makes sure they have a tour of the maternity ward. And, if the pupils wish, there is a film on childbirth available at the hospital for them to see.

Amazingly enough, increasingly more couples are preferring to not have their children in hospitals, but are having their deliveries at home or in the doctor's office. One doctor in the area makes Mrs. Blank's course mandatory if his patients are going to deliver in his office. She also gets referrals from several other doctors which have heard of her through their patients.

"At first I wasn't sure if I could teach without being a registered nurse, but I have taken childbirth courses in the many hospitals in the area, and I am a member of the International Childbirth Education Association," she says. She's also supported by doctors and nurses. It seems that more and more doctors hear about her all the time and send their patients to her.

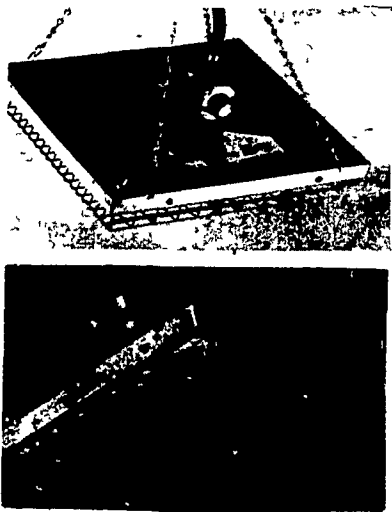
Often times her pupils are really appreciative of her classes because they are Christian oriented and personal. She also has an obvious enthusiasm in helping mothers learn this rewarding method of giving birth to their children. The joy she finds in the miracle of birth is seemingly boundless.

"If I could, I'd have 20 babies!" she says with a delighted laugh, again amused at her own over-zealousness. When a down-to-earth woman makes a statement of that magnitude it shows how highly she regards the experience of childbirth - a feeling which can't help but be transmitted to those she teaches.

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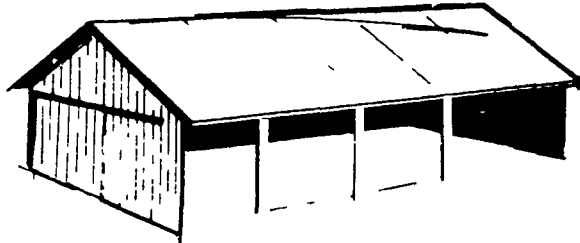


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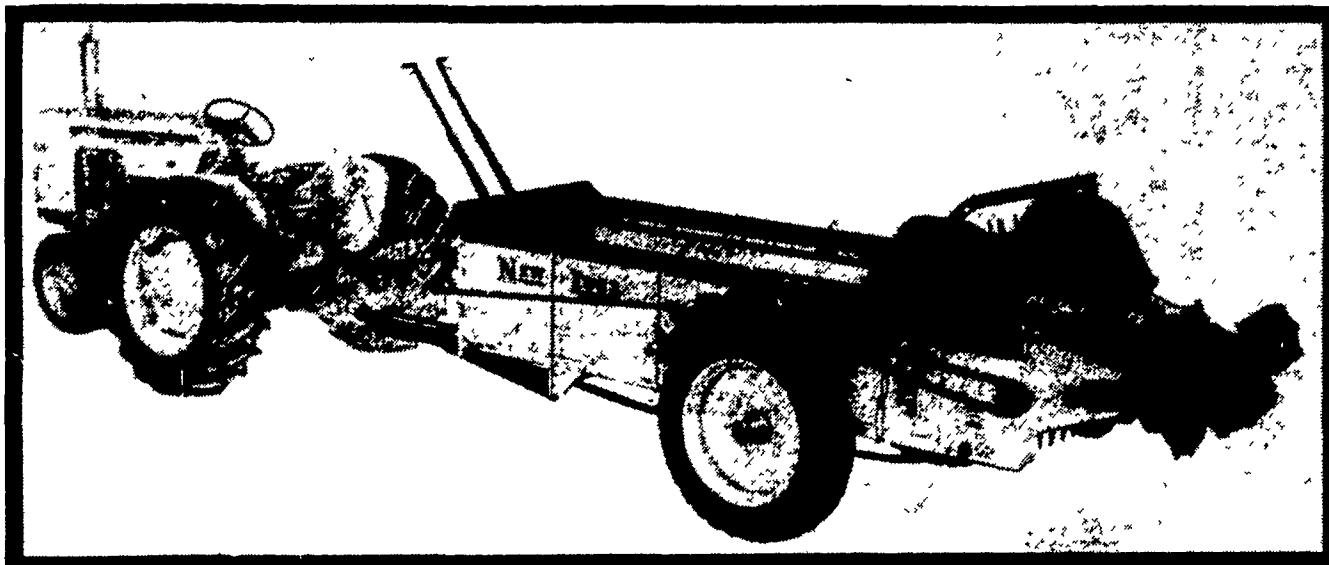
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