

# LIFE on the farm

By Dieter Krieg, Editor

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Having missed my scheduled flight for a brief visit to my parents' farm in Florida, I waited for the next available connections. That made me decide to re-schedule the return flight as well, leaving the sunny South a full six hours later than I had originally intended.

The trip home was absolutely no fun.

Sitting towards the rear of the DC-9 late that night, all that was keeping me awake was a severe pain in my ears which was the result of frequent

altitude changes. This particular flight made several en-route stops.

About half-way to Baltimore, the pilot informed the handful of weary midnight travelers that weather conditions in the Maryland-Pennsylvania area were miserable. The plane would be able to land, but there was much snow on the ground and it had just recently been topped with freezing rain.

"I'll have a great time driving home," I thought to myself. Marvin was expecting me home Sunday night.

As the airplane approached the airport, the lights and dimly-lit scenery looked out-of-place. There had been no snow here less than 48 hours ago. Now the place looked like a refrigerator which was in desperate need of defrosting. What a lousy thing to come home to!

It was 2 a.m. Home was 50 miles to the north. I needed a dogsled, but all I had was a 7-year old car.

The lights of Baltimore were soon behind me as I headed north on four-lane highways. It wasn't bad going. As the night grew darker due to the vanishing of city and highway lights, the view through my windshield appeared even colder than it was - especially since I was the only fool out on the road this early in the morning.

Instead of allowing myself to settle way back in the driver's seat, as I usually do, I had both hands on the steering wheel and was crouched forward for whatever advantage that might give me for visibility. Snow was

falling and the windshield wipers were flipping back and forth. The beams of my headlights swerved from side to side on occasion as the back end of my Oldsmobile fought for better traction.

Each mile beyond Interstate 83 came as a surprise. The tires kept chewing the snow. The headlights kept their aim towards Woodbine. Eventually a point was reached when I boasted: "From here on, I don't care if I do get stuck, I can walk the rest of the way!"

The last half-mile was all uphill. It was 4:30 a.m. Slowly, but steadily, the car continued to stay on course towards the farm. The familiar sights sure looked friendly all of a sudden. And then there was a most pleasant surprise.

There, ahead of me and to the right, was the cow stable with all the lights turned on. Inside was Marvin, getting ready to milk. What's more, he was getting started an hour early.

"I thought you might not get back with the snow and all," the hired man explained matter-of-factly.

"Thanks, Marv, if you were a girl I'd kiss you," I said with genuine appreciation.

## Now is the time

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even presented while the opposing thoughts are presented strongly. When it comes to issues concerning agriculture, and especially land use and the preserving of good farm land, we urge farmers and folks in the rural area to become very active and let officials know their opinions and suggestions. Otherwise, agriculture will continue to be the loser.

### TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH LAWMAKERS

Farmers are usually reluctant to come forward and state their opinion on public issues, whether they concern agriculture or not. However, under present trends and transactions we feel that farmers have every right and actually have a duty to let their legislators and officials know what they are thinking. In many cases the farmer viewpoint is not

subject several times over the past few years. However, we still hear of livestock producers who get hurt because they allowed left-over chemicals to get into the hands of children or allowed livestock to get to them. We suggest separate storage buildings or rooms for this material and should never be left on the barn floor, in the garage, or in the feed alley. The livestock industry is at the point for producers where it is very difficult to make much profit on the operation. When these careless losses do occur, it means a greater loss for that enterprise. Pesticide safety is just as important as fire or accident safety. Don't take chances with any pesticides materials.

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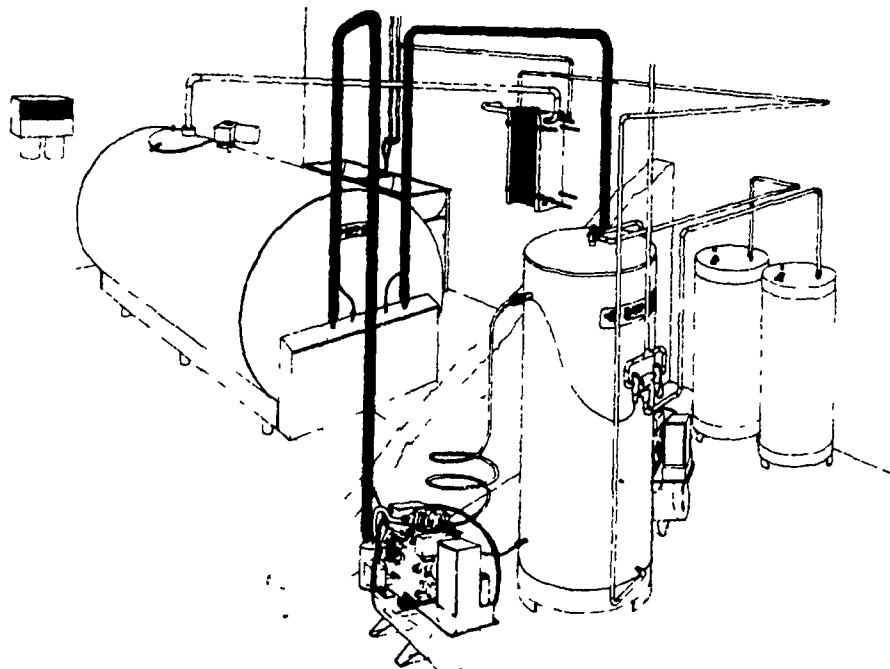


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