

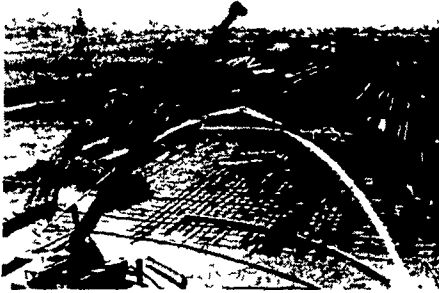
## Red meat down from '76

HARRISBURG, Pa. Red meat production in Pennsylvania during January 1977 totaled 85.6 million pounds, down three per cent from a year ago, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Cattle slaughter at 86,500 head was down five per cent

from January 1976; calves at 28,000 head were down 12 per cent; sheep and lambs at 10,600 head were down five per cent; but hogs at 231,000 head were down 13 per cent from a year ago.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in January 1977 totaled nearly

3.3 billion pounds, about the same as a year ago. The number of cattle slaughtered was down six per cent from a year ago. Sheep and lambs slaughtered was down 15 per cent, but hog slaughter was up seven per cent. Calf slaughter was up two per cent from a year ago.



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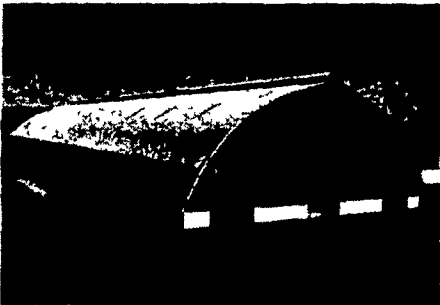


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# LIFE on the farm

By Dieter Krieg, Editor

By DIETER KRIEG

It's in the air again and spreading from farm to farm. Every farmer feels it and welcomes the mysterious force to refresh his spirit.

It's a sense of anticipation and accomplishment, of work and pleasure, of youth and gratitude, of beauty and worthiness.

It comes in the form of sunshine, gentle breezes, singing birds, traces of new vegetation, awakening flowers, and the unique scent which is released from turned soil. The hours of early morning don't seem as lonely now that the sun is peeking through the east windows at milking time. And the evenings are longer.

The earth itself is waking up again!

The hard, cold grip of Winter has melted with the ice and snow. And as the waters from the previously frozen masses bubble across the stones of streams, they sing a happy and lively tune. Every farmer has heard it. Fields are thawing and the air above gives all a gentle and warm embrace. Every farmer has felt it.

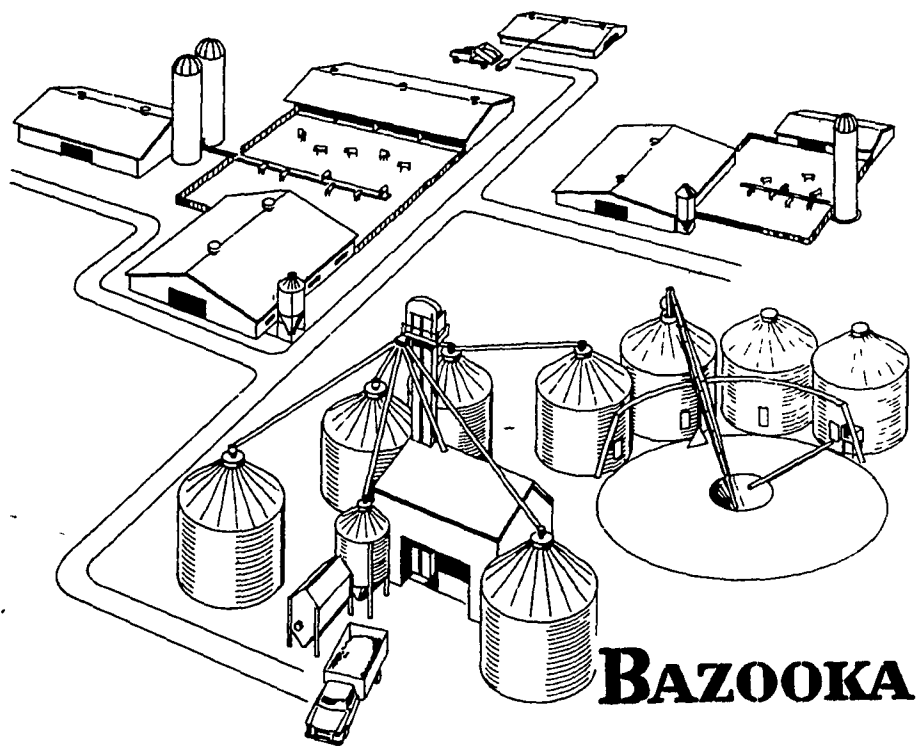
Facing the day now is an enjoyable experience, compared to the brutalities and discomforts of the Winter we faced. Gone are the heavy

overcoats, scarfs and gloves. We can walk into the barn and be confident of not finding frozen pipes. The thought of it all is enough to tingle a person's spine.

In a way, the phenomenon we're experiencing now is unique to farmers. The general public calls it "Spring Fever." Everybody feels happy about it, and for good reason. But I have yet to meet the factory or office worker who's jumping for joy because of "Spring Fever" giving him a real boost towards getting something accomplished on the job. Instead "Spring Fever" is likely to have a depressing effect on the individual who's at work and staring out of his window or maybe has no window at all.

The farmer gets an extra measure of "Spring Fever" which is known, appropriately enough, as "Farming Fever." I hope nobody ever finds a cure for it. It's probably the most powerful driving force in the entire industry.

Yes, with the sun appearing earlier and staying later, the days are definitely friendlier. And "Farming Fever" has struck the hearts and minds and souls of millions.



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