

LIFE on the farm

By DIETER KRIEG

Except for the anger displayed by the bolts of lightning and accompanying thunder, the look of the sky mirrored my mood — gloom.

The makings of a disaster were in front of me and there was nothing I could do about it. Mother Nature was angry, or if that wasn't the case, she was being overly generous with the amount of water she was handing out.

Sheets of water, driven by strong winds, were beating young plants of corn to the ground and tearing many of them out. A river of muddy water swirled its way around the house, carrying with it some of the gravel of the driveway. I watched the scene helplessly, hoping only that the damage would not be too great.

Picking up a pair of binoculars, I observed a portion of the field which was most vulnerable to erosion. Rampaging water was cutting through the topsoil and depositing debris along a fence at the bottom of the field. A good sized lake was also forming there.

Down in the pasture, the water carried tin cans, bottles, and other refuse along its path. They had been dropped off by careless motorists and now posed a closer threat to livestock and tractor tires.

The fence near the stream at the other end of the farm was being pressured by the excess water and floating debris. With a little bit of luck it would hold, but quite often it broke, thus creating that much more work for us.

Although the rain was welcome and needed, coming down as fast and violently as it did, it had created a lot more harm than good. Valuable topsoil was lost, fences were broken, plants were washed out or covered over with mud, gullies were formed, and hazardous objects such as bottles were strewn across the pasture.

The sight was frustrating and an unfortunate chapter of life on the farm.

Hanks wins speaking contest



David Hanks

GETTYSBURG - David Hanks, from Drumore, Lancaster County, won the Grange Leadership School's speaking contest on Wednesday evening in the 19 to 35 year olds age group.

Hanks, along with the other contestants, spoke on how the Grange could improve in individual communities and on a national

scale. Speeches were limited to between four and six minutes in length.

Runner-up in the senior division contest was Sherrie Higinbotham from Smock, Fayette County. Taking third place was Anna May Snyder of 126 South 17th Street, Camp Hill. Her younger brother, James, placed second in the junior division contest, which is limited to 14 to 18 year olds. Taking home the honors for the younger set was July

Paul From Lemona. In third place Mary Styer from R2.

The contestants presented their speeches following Wednesday evening which had the First the National Grange Dorothy Scott - a speaker. She is the National Grange John Scott. Her the "Quality Plus" a Grangers can and strive for it.



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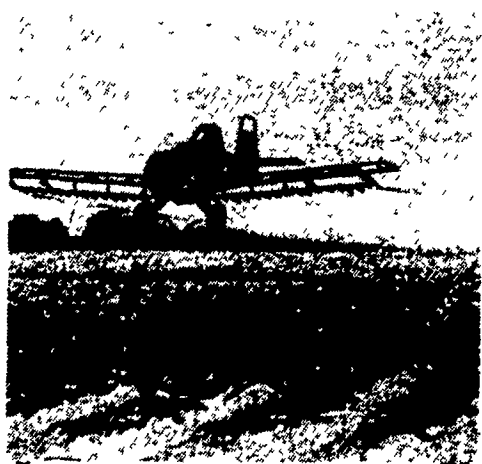
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