



LIFE on the farm

By DIETER KRIEG

Much of life on the farm is gone now, and a lot more will fade away in weeks to come. The country is a quiet place during this time of year, in comparison to just a month ago.

You can still hear the sounds of equipment rumbling over the fields, and animals bawling at feeding time, but that's about all.

Gone are the endlessly chirping insects which thrived during Summer's prickly heat and were as plentiful as the blades of grass they jumped back and forth from. Gone is the soothing concert of frogs and the pleasant scent of alfalfa drying in the field. Lightning bugs have quit their nightly aerial shows as the last golden maple leaves float gracefully

to the ground. Now the lawn - which was like a green carpet all Summer - is covered with a carpet of a different sort.

Just as the trees are now naked, many fields are already bare. Gone is the beauty of the growing season. Birds which haven't already left are swarming across open fields by the thousands in practice for a southward migration.

It's a time of year for which the farmer can feel both sad and happy. Watching so much life disappear and

McGuier wins sheep shearing

HARRISBURG - Jay McGuier, an 18-year-old from Prosperity R2, Washington County, won the Pennsylvania Junior Sheep Shearing Contest Sunday night at the 21st Annual Keystone International Livestock Exposition.

Second and third places in the contest went to Clark Kevin, Clarks Mills R1, Mercer County, and Susan Brownless of Claysville R3, Washington County. Jay McGuier had placed second in the 1976 Pennsylvania Junior Sheep Shearing Contest.

Contestants are judged on timing, absence of second

cuts in the fleece, condition of the fleece, absence of cuts on the sheep, their methods in handling the sheep and the final appearance of shorn sheep. Each contestant must shear two sheep in the event. Most of the contestants, eight boys and two girls, had participated in sheep shearing schools in the state. Pennsylvania Junior Sheep Shearing Contest entrants must be between 15 and 20 years of age.

As the winner of the contest, McGuier will receive \$35 and will represent Pennsylvania in the National Junior Sheep

Shearing Contest. The contest is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Livestock Association and the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association.



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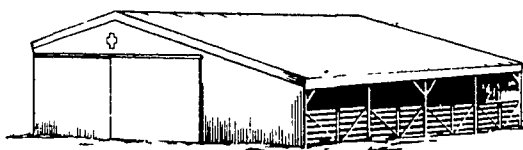
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bringing a jacket back into use is no fun. But knowing that three seasons work is nearing completion and that a time of comparative rest is at hand, a farmer can feel satisfied. There will still be plenty of things to do anyway.

Life on the farm would be sad, indeed, however, if we wouldn't have the assurance of a new dawning of life next Spring. Thank God for that.

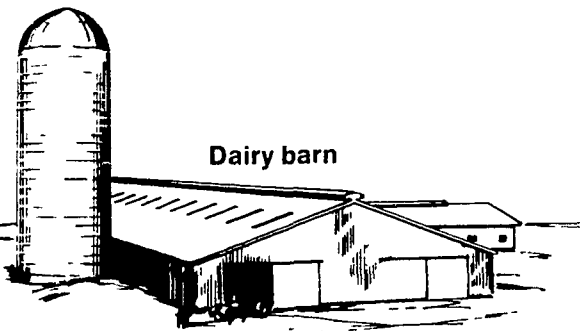
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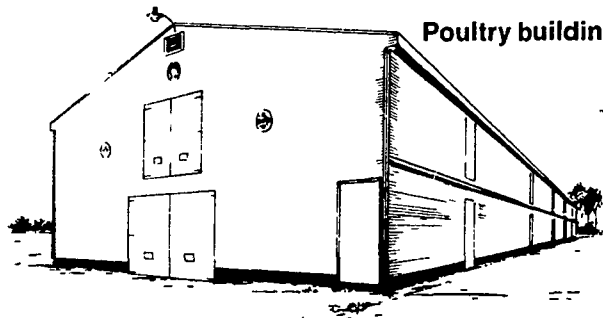
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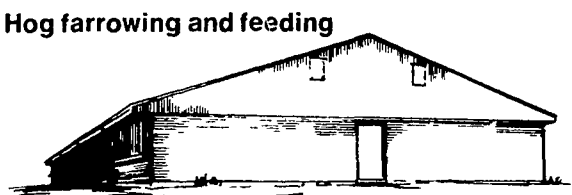
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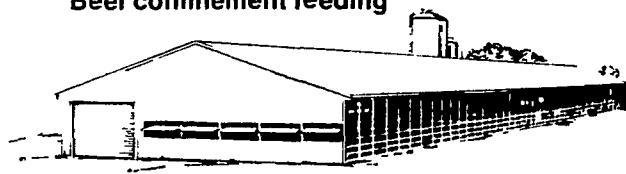
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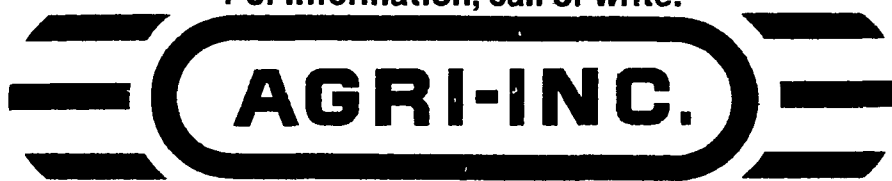
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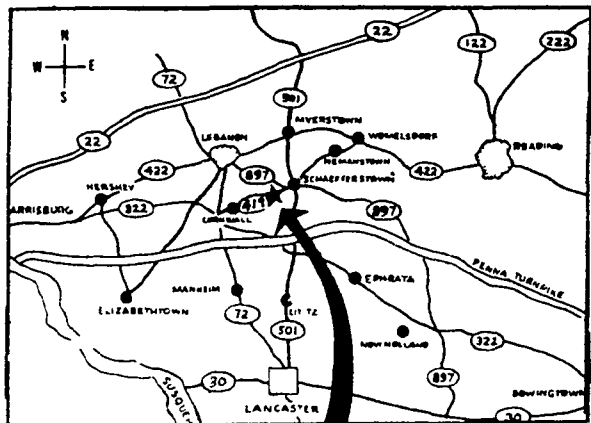
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