

Changes

(Continued from Page 1)
top quality animals head for Harrisburg in January.

Another step toward improving the Farm Show in the agriculture secretary's

Holstein cow

(Continued from Page 23)

just one. It was all over in about 45 minutes, recalls Reiff.

The sire of the quadruplets is Oakland Outstanding Ben. Trained in artificial insemination, Reiff bred the cow himself, saying that she caught on the third service. Now at the entrance to her fourth lactation, the mother of the calves came into labor about two weeks before her due date, which may offer a partial accounting for her as yet non-existent milk. Reiff isn't looking forward to a lot of milk from her this year, but he's willing to overlook that, reasoning that "it wouldn't be fair" to knock her after what she's been through.

In her previous lactation, Louann produced 18,000 pounds of milk and 671 of butterfat. "I will keep her," Reiff remarked, adding that the calves will be giving him an interesting challenge too. "They're doing great," Reiff told this writer Friday morning.

Since a bull calf was among the multiple birth, some interest is being generated about the probabilities of the heifers being Freemartins. With twin births, that's normally the case, but not much is known about it with triplets or quadruplets. It is possible to run chromosome tests on blood samples to determine the heifers' sexual completeness. Although the occurrence of Freemartins is quite common, not much is known about the phenomenon.

Louann had no history of multiple births before the big event on Wednesday. But she made history that day. One such birth in around 700,000 leaves this part of the country with slim odds of it happening again in the near future.

mind would be to eliminate dual entries.

"Should a person be able to show in both 4-H and open shows?" questions the Columbia County fruit grower. "I'd like to see an open class that's truly an open class." Another possibility for dual entries is that only top 4-H competitors be allowed to take part in the open show.

Along the same lines, Secretary Shelhamer would like to see more youth oriented activities at the annual event.

"Our future is with the youth," stated the agriculture secretary firmly, "And, to my knowledge, we are the only indoor Farm Show out of 14 with the emphasis in this area."

Not satisfied with the prices buyers have been paying for the champion animals at the sales, Shelhamer is hoping to up the bids through promotional lines.

"We can glamorize buying the 4-H animals through publicity," the agriculture secretary speculated. "For instance, one possibility is setting up a special showcase within the Farm Show complex, or we could give buyers more coverage throughout the year."

Up to this point, however, none of these concepts have actually been ironed out, but Shelhamer made note that he is working closely with a group of industry men entitled the Secretary's Advisory Committee. Relying on their expertise in the area of livestock, Shelhamer believes that they are equipped to help him firm up a series of workable changes in this area.

Shelhamer also asserts that the Pennsylvania Farm Show is the number one Farm Show in the nation in terms of visitors.

"We are also the oldest," he points out, "and, being the oldest makes ours the least desirable."

To upgrade the desirability of the Com-

monwealth's show, the agriculture secretary says that an "effort to change the appearance of the buildings" will begin immediately after this year's January event. One of those changes will be a new paint job.

"We're going to have some far out colors," Shelhamer says. "Don't be surprised if you see a little chartreuse in some places. After all, why should the buildings be battleship gray? I want to repaint them bright lively colors with maybe a few flowers here and there."

The exterior will also have a complete landscaping program.

Now buildings are also in future plans. Renovations to this point have included tearing down Butler Barns and putting up a 66,000 square foot building. In addition to that, Shelhamer is also asking for a 72,000 square foot building which could be utilized separately or together with other Farm Show complex.

Now that 76 acres of Harrisburg State Hospital

land has been transferred to his office with options, he is hopeful of building an arena on the site in the future, although he is unable to pin down the year.

"It is estimated that it would cost \$150 million to build a new exposition

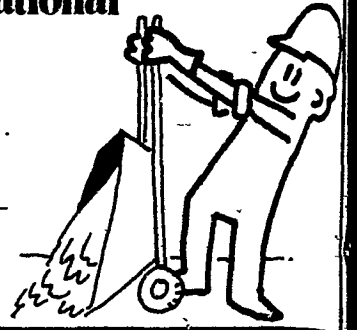
center," quoted Shelhamer "but we could probably build a new arena for 1/3 of that."

Although a new arena is not in the planning stages at this moment, Shelhamer hopes that it will only be a couple of years at the most before a new building is erected.

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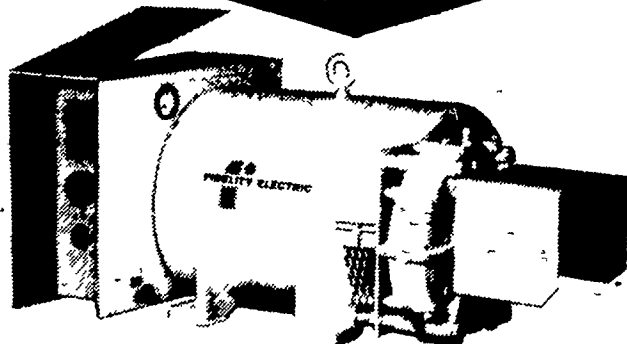
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