

# EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



## Needed improvements for '79

Exhibitors and visitors to the Pennsylvania Farm Show were generally pleased and even excited about the way the activities unraveled, but they do offer some suggestions for improvement which are worthy of strong consideration.

In the Large Arena, for example, exhibitors and animals are plagued year after year by a few unruly troublemakers who throw trash and even firecrackers. On Thursday, during the Baby Beef Show, someone tossed a firecracker which exploded near a little girl. Isn't there something we can do about this, or must a child or an adult have his ear drums blown out first. If the State Police isn't around, maybe we should grab the troublesome characters

ourselves and show them they're not wanted

In the dairy barn, exhibitors are asking for a maternity pen. That's certainly a justified request and it's a wonder how it was overlooked in the first place.

The beef barn has drainage and ventilation shortcomings. They'll hopefully be taken care of before next year's big show.

Last, but certainly not least, we've got to keep thinking about adding more usable space. More than a half acre of exhibit area will be lost now that the 1978 Farm Show is over. Unless something is done to counterbalance that loss, 1979 is likely to go down as a year of disappointment at the Farm Show.

## COMMENTS FROM READERS

### Strike is not the answer

Editor, Lancaster Farming: I have been reading, hearing and watching this farm strike when I've not been busy fixing fence, calving or lambing. Fellows, believe me, I am on your side in sympathy only. I now feel our salvation is not strike and complain, but to listen to the economic warnings of our trade papers and magazines, stop trying to out-guess our neighbors and tend to business.

For starters, do not plant more crops than you personally need to feed your

animals. If you are just a grain operator, close down for one season and take a job in town, go fishing, whatever, but give the world a chance to eat up this surplus.

I am a cow-calf operator and was a hard head for a while but when we culled 40 per cent of our cows, sold our hay and switched to a flock of sheep, we actually made more income with less effort. Then this year we cut corn planting in half and we lost even less.

One more word to the wise cowman, the buyers are around all of a sudden looking for replacement heifers, cows are in short supply and the price of calves is going up. Please do not get greedy and expand because we will flood the market in four to five years and we will be in trouble again. History does repeat itself, and rather quickly.

Frank B. Darcey, Jr.  
Fairfield, Pa.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851



### TO CHECK STAND-BY GENERATORS

Weather conditions are very uncertain at this time of the year, and all of us should be prepared for emergencies. Electric power is a very important part of most farm operations, and without it, we are nearly shut down and severely hampered. Therefore, some emergency equipment is needed to operate all of the mechanical devices now being used on many farms. The stand-by generator is the one piece of equipment that can keep things moving while the power is off because of

severe weather. Many producers have one, but may not have used it recently. We suggest that this type of equipment be readied for an emergency at any time.

### TO SEGREGATE NEW ANIMALS

One of our very good veterinarians of years ago tried to impress on livestock producers that sanitation and segregation were the two most important things in good livestock management. The segregating of new animals brought into the herd is a "must"; otherwise, great risk is being taken.

When these animals are kept separate for 30 days and then tested for various infections, and found negative, then it is safe to place them with the rest of the herd or flock. In this same line of management, animals that are returning to the farm from a show or sale, should also be segregated for the 30-day period. The animals themselves may not become infected because they have been treated against the infection; however, other animals in the herd do not have the resistance and may come down with various infections. Segregation is

very important for good herd health.

### TO THAW PIPES CAREFULLY

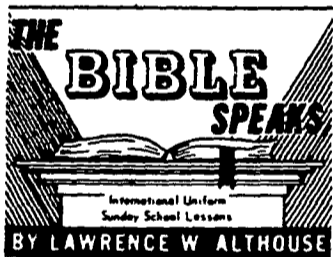
Frozen pipes are quite common when temperatures get near zero; the thawing of the pipes in buildings can be dangerous. Blow torches or any open flame is very dangerous and should not be used; neither should electric welders. All of these are dangerous and can start fires. The wrapping of the pipe with burlap or rags and then pouring on hot water can get the job done. Electric hair dryers have

been used to blow hot air on the frozen pipe area. Prevention is always better than the cure; try to prevent the freezing and save all the trouble. The use of electric heating cable wrapped around exposed pipes is giving good results.

### TO ALLOW LIVESTOCK ROOM AND EXERCISE

The confining of any type of livestock into cramped, stuffy quarters is not recommended; this is especially true of beef cattle and young dairy animals. They need fresh air and daily outside exercise for top

performance. The skeletal structure, and especially the feet and legs will be much better, if they are permitted more outdoor freedom. Tightly confined animals tend to have more trouble with body lice and ringworm infection. When given the chance most animals will spend far more time outside the pen or building, than inside; they will do better under this kind of management.



### THE PRICE OF VISIONS

Lesson for January 15, 1978

Background Scripture:

Daniel 1.

Devotional Reading:  
Habakkuk 2:15-20.

Sri Chinmoy, a teacher of meditation from India, has remarked: "Some people will do anything for their own advancement except work for it." In other words, many of us are desirous of the fruits of God's gifts, but we do not want to pay the price. We are perhaps like the woman who listened as a

great pianist played a stirring Polonaise by Chopin. "I'd give everything to play like that." Turning to her, the pianist said: "Yes, that's what it takes: everything."

### Indulge yourself!

We live in an age when the terms self-denial and self-discipline are virtually unknown. Our culture's message is basically: "Indulge yourselves - you have it coming to you." Many of us are caught up in a frantic effort to enjoy ourselves to the fullest: to get as much as we can as often as we can. We are perhaps often like the comic strip character who asks his big sister: "Did I have a good time today? Sometimes I can't tell." The assumption is that if we consume as much of the world's goods as we can, we will have a "good time." Often, however, that assumption is obviously wrong.

The first chapter of the

Book of Daniel presents a challenging counterview. Daniel and his compatriots are given what must seem to be "an offer they can't refuse:" they will live and be educated in the palace of the great Babylonian King Ashpenaz eating the same sumptuous food and drink enjoyed by the king and his court. They will be the envy of their fellow Israelites with the "good life" that has suddenly become theirs.

### The good life?

Daniel, however, "looks the gift horse in the mouth" and doesn't see the offer as "the good life." He knows the rich food and drink of the king, no matter how good it all looks and tastes, will be unhealthy with too much quantity, too much richness. So he persuades the king's eunuch to allow him to pursue a vegetarian diet.

The eunuch consents but he has a problem. If Daniel's

diet makes him weak and listless, the eunuch will be in trouble with the king. So a demonstration is arranged; Daniel and his associates will be tested in comparison to the servants of the eunuch who eat the king's rich food. The result of the test: "So the steward took away their rich food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables."

The point of the story is not a pitch for a vegetarian diet. It is rather to demonstrate what can happen in our lives when we dare to discipline ourselves. The "good life," the writer is saying, is the disciplined life. Because Daniel thought more of his soul than his appetites, he "had understanding in all visions and dreams." All of us would like to experience the visions and revelations of the great men of faith, but are we willing to pay the price?

## Farm Calendar

Today, Jan. 14

New Jersey Holstein Association annual meeting, 10 a.m.; all breeds luncheon, 1 p.m. at the Watching View Inn, north of Somerville.

Buck Tractors Pulls banquet, Quarryville Community Fair Building, 6:45 p.m.

Blue Mountain Young Farmers meet at the high school for volleyball, 7 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 16

Dairy Herd Improvement meeting for Lancaster County dairy farmers, at the Robert Wenger farm, south of the Buck, east of Route 272. Turn at Caleb Wenger's. Meeting at 1 p.m.

Pennsylvania Turf Grass Conference, J.O. Keller Conference Center, Penn State University, State College, Pa. Conference continues through the 19th.

Tuesday, Jan. 17

"Meeting with Wood," first in a series of three sessions on energy conservation, at the Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Extension Center, 7:30 p.m. Other sessions Jan. 24 and 31. Details at the Extension Service.

Inter-State District 3 meeting, noon, at Chestnut Level Presbyterian Church. Dairy management meeting with Don Ace at the Lan-

caster Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.

Garden Spot Area Young Farmers meet. Subject: Feeding animal wastes to livestock.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers meet at the high school, 7:45 p.m. Officer elections and tax law changes are on tap.

Small fruit growers round-table discussion at the Fruit Research Lab, Adams County.

Wednesday, Jan. 18

Lancaster-York Vegetable Growers meeting.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers beef tour, leave Ephrata Area Junior High School at 8:45 a.m.

Welding classes start at Blue Mountain High School Agriculture Department for adult farmers. Classes will continue on consecutive Wednesdays through April 19. Various types of welding will be taught. Registration fee is \$20.

Land use discussion in Manor Township, Lancaster County, at the Hambright School, outside of Millersville. 7:30 p.m.

Corn Day at the New Oxford Fire Hall, 9 a.m. Call Extension Service in York or Adams County for details.

Thursday, Jan. 19

Inter-State Milk Producers District meeting, Quar-

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## RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong

