

# Understanding Equine featured at Horse Expo

**By KENDACE BORRY**  
**READING** - Speakers, exhibits, and films were featured at the Berks County Horse Expo '78. Held at the Berks County Agricultural Center, the theme of the event was Understanding Equine. It was sponsored by the Berks County Extension Service and 4-H Horse clubs, horse breed associations and local horse clubs.

Several booths were set up throughout the 4-H center giving a variety of information on the many aspects of horses and horse-back riding.

Throughout the day speakers covered several assorted topics concerning the care of horses.

Dr. Homer S. Forney, from the Pa. Bureau of animal industry, spoke on the disease equine infectious anemia, commonly known as swamp fever. The disease which weakens and sometimes kills infected animals, spreads readily. It may be difficult to ascertain because it can take many forms and resemble other fever producing disease. It can be diagnosed by a Coggins test.

The disease is caused by a virus found in the blood and tissues of infected animals. This virus remains in the blood of animals that recover and in the blood of

carrier animals as long as they live. Infected animals shed the virus in discharges from the eyes and nose, saliva, urine, manure, mare's milk, and semen.

Horse owners that want to find out if an animal has infectious anemia should contact their veterinarian. He will collect a blood sample and send it to an approved laboratory for a Coggins test.

Dr. James P. Gallagher, Extension Equine specialist, Penn State, spoke on equine feeding and nutrition. He stressed the importance of quality hay and feed for horses, stating that the quality of feed for horses is just as important as it would be for a dairy animal.

Pasture management was the theme of Dr. John E. Baylor, Extension agronomy specialist, Penn State. Also stressing the importance of high quality pasture and forage, he stated that pasture is usually one of the best and least expensive feeds for horses.

Pasture serves two purposes for horses. It can be used as an exercise lot and at the same time can also provide feed for the animal. But, he added, to provide feed, there must be enough acreage to support the horse. For pasture feeding needs,

more than one acre per animal is needed.

Besides this, pasturing gives other benefits. Horses benefit from being in the fresh air and sunlight, and they will have more freedom from respiratory ailments by being in the open.

If a pasture is only to be used for exercise, a tall fescue grass will keep the animals out of the mud, Baylor said. While not very palatable to the horse, it is best for sodding, and good to use for a small exercise area.

Grasses and legumes are a horse's natural food and are high in nitrogen and protein, plus they contain vitamins and minerals. Proper management of pastures is important.

Baylor recommended that pastures be soil tested. After the test is taken, he stressed the application of lime to maintain the proper pH and acidity of the soil. He told the group that lime moves slowly through the soil, taking time to react, and can take several months to be absorbed. The lime should be applied several months ahead of fertilizing.

Fertilizing is the second important step of pasture improvement and maintenance. The exact needs of each pasture will be told by a soil test buy Baylor said if no



Interested in horses, the crowds came to the Berks County Horse Expo to learn the latest in horse technology, visit the many stands showing the activities of area horse clubs, and just talk to the many horse enthusiasts present.

test were taken, a good guide might be 70 lb. per acre per year of nitrogen, potassium, and potash, although he added most pastures would probably need more.

Speaking of pasture renovation, he stated that there was a method of improving pasture by partial destruction of the existing sod. Some of the vegetation is depressed as required in order to establish or reestablish desirable forage.

If starting a pasture from scratch, Baylor recommended the following seed mix: Kentucky Bluegrass, 6 lb./acre; timothy, 4 lb./acre; ladino clover, 1 lb./acre; and red clover, 2 lb./acre. This mixture is for a well drained soil.

For a mixed drainage area, he recommends a grass mixture of Kentucky Bluegrass, 6 lb./acre; timothy, 2 lb./acre; and birdsfoot trefoil, 6 lb./acre.

On a poorly drained pasture area, the mixture should be: reed canary grass, 8 lb./acre, and birds foot trefoil or tall fescue, 6 lb./acre.

Talking on pasture management, Baylor noted that the horse is a notorious spot grazer. He said that rotational grazing is ideal for horses with one acre per horse and five to six pad-

(Turn to Page 27)

ced near

heat in buildings, can't be warm on he severe of recent says, is sees pigs 27)

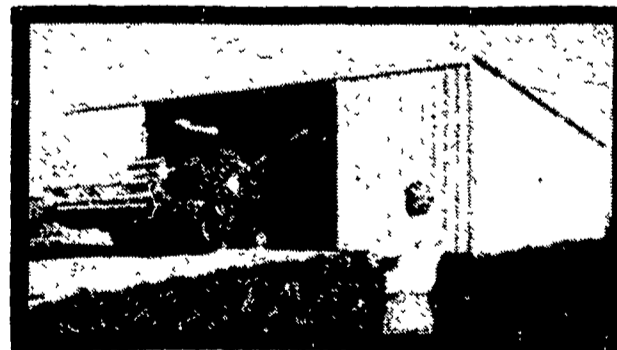
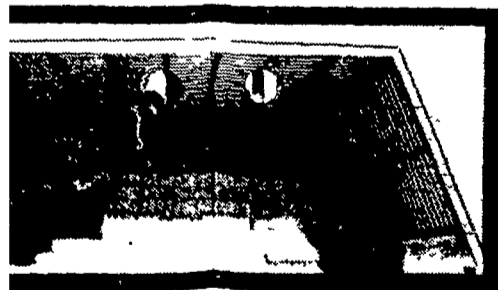
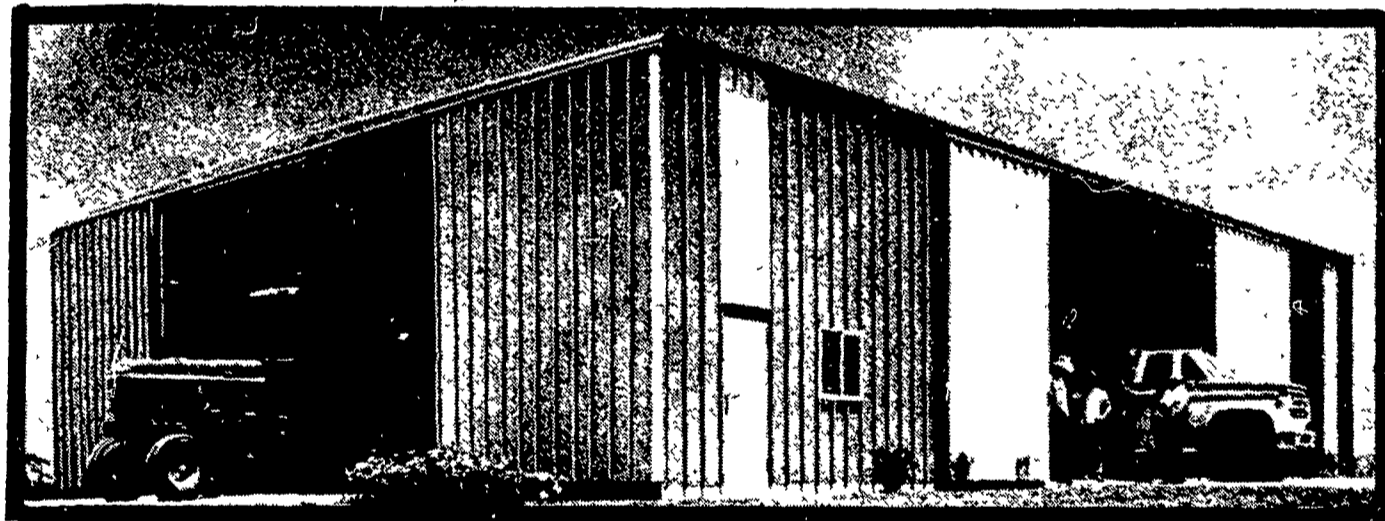
**RE YOU BUY.. What you see is what you get.**

**SPECIAL...  
 INTER DISCOUNTS**

**AT THE PRICE INCREASE  
 EFFECTIVE MARCH 20th  
 LER FARMSTEAD BUILDINGS**

**ALL OR STRAIGHT-WALL  
 SIDE OR OUTSIDE**

**SEE THE BIG DIFFERENCE  
 TLER ALL-STEEL BUILDINGS**



**E DETAILS & PRICE**

**BUILDERS FOR THE FARMER WHO'S IN BUSINESS TO STAY**

**J.A. NEWTON  
 & SON CO.**  
 Mills, Delaware 19933  
 Phone 302-337-8211

**D.E. SMITH, INC.**  
 Millfintown, Pa. 17059  
 Phone 717-436-2151

**SUNNY MEAD SALES**  
 R.D. #3, Box 409  
 Altoona, Pa. 16601  
 Phone 814-944-6045

**TEMCO PARTS CO. INC.**  
 Route 213 and 544  
 Chestertown, Md. 21620  
 Phone 301-778-4454

**C.H. WALTZ SONS INC.**  
 Cogan Station, Pa. 17728  
 Phone 717-435-2921

**J.R. MOODY,  
 ONTRACTOR**  
 13 Walnut Lane  
 Newton, Pa. 17099  
 Phone 412-872-6804

**ROYER'S FARM  
 SERVICE**  
 R.D. #1  
 Winfield, Pa. 17889  
 Phone 717-837-3201

**GLENN M. STAHLMAN**  
 R.D. #1, Cash Valley Road  
 Cumberland, Md. 21502  
 Phone 301-777-0582

**TAP ENTERPRISES INC.**  
 R.D. #3, Box 256A  
 Fleetwood, Pa. 19522  
 Phone 215-929-2884

**TRI-STATE MARINE  
 DIST. INC.**  
 Route 256  
 Deale, Md. 20751  
 Phone 301-867-1447

**P. E. Hess, Butler Mfg. Co.** **BUTLER**  
 Box 337, Oxford, PA 19363 **AGRI-BUILDER**

I'm interested in more information on Butler products.  
 Buildings  Bins  Dryers  Bulk-O-Matics

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ [Include area code] LF