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Bergen delights poultry crowd

By JOANNE SPAHR
LANCASTER - "Life has been pretty good," 75-year-old Edgar Bergen told his audience. "It's the best thing I've run across," he added with a wry twist of his mouth and a turn of his head.

The famous ventriloquist was the featured entertainment for the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation's annual fund raising dinner theater. He drew both laughter and long-tucked-away memories from

the 1350 poultrymen and allied industry men who gathered at the Host Farm Cabaret room to support the Federation on Thursday evening.

Doing stand-up comedy and reciting fractured Shakespeare were both part of this veteran showman's routine, but perhaps his most heartwarming performance came through his conversations with his little wooden buddies - Mortimer

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Reasons presented for dairy woes

By DIETER KRIEG
STOUCHSBURG - Dairy men in the Northeast have two options to solve their marketing programs, says Ralph Smith, director of education for the Northeast Dairy Cooperatives Federation (NEDCO). The choices are to either produce less or sell more.

Speaking at a meeting near this western Berks County town, Smith said that 1000 or more dairy men in the Northeast have received notices from their dairy so

far this year telling them that they (the dairies) can no longer take their milk. "You cull cows, and the dairies cull producers," Smith explained bluntly. Reasons for dairies cutting many shippers off the shipper lists are because of a cost-price squeeze coupled with an oversupply of milk.

Milk has been and continues to be produced in excess of marketing needs because of the government's support program in the price

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Surveys can improve roadside marketing

GETTYSBURG - Owners of roadside markets can improve sales and service by improving parking facilities, posting store hours, providing seasonal information, and offering samples, says Ohio State's marketing specialist Ed Watkins.

In southcentral Pennsylvania for the annual Pennsylvania - Maryland Roadside Marketing Conference, held earlier this

year, Watkins came prepared with marketing strategy studies which have not yet been attempted in Pennsylvania. At his suggestion, Pennsylvania State University may attempt similar research, providing roadside marketers are willing to help with the distribution of questionnaires.

According to the Ohio State statistics, consumers who frequent roadside

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Lancaster Farming photo by Dieter Krieg

Hans Hubschrauber has taken to the air to get his field work done.

Wet fields don't bother flying farmer

By DIETER KRIEG

SWAMPY FURROWS - A few spots in Pennsylvania are now fit to field work, but that's not the case for most areas where record amounts of snow and several inches of rainfall have left the ground thoroughly soaked. Plowing and planting will be behind schedule for most farmers in the area.

As much as the wet field conditions are causing a lot of grief for anxious sodbusters, one innovative and resourceful Pennsylvania farmer isn't letting the muddy fields bother him too much.

Hans Hubschrauber, (that's him, flying the helicopter, above) is getting the jump on his neighbors by attacking his field work with his own air force. Having 1050 acres to prepare for corn, soybeans, spaghetti, and cotton, the 37-year old former Air Force pilot is wasting no time to get his work done.

Using a slightly modified Augusta-Bell 204 helicopter, Hubschrauber has found his "aerial tractor" to be ideal for a number of jobs, including manure spreading.

During an interview today (April 1) Hubschrauber told Lancaster Farming that he likes the aerial application of manure procedure because there is no chance of a tailwind splattering him with the home-made fertilizer. The blades of the big chopper force the manure down, allowing for better penetration of the soil and faster availability of plant nutrients to hungry weeds. Then when the weeds are off to a good start, Hubschrauber hops into his helicopter again. This time he's armed with herbicides. The weeds die and provide good organic material for a better soil texture. Seeding is the next step, and as you may have guessed, it's also done by helicopter.

Depth of planting, says Hubschrauber, is controlled by

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