

Adams County magistrate rules

Starved cattle case not related to cruelty

ARENDSVILLE - The Maryland businessman who owns 10 farms in Adams County has been found guilty of failing to dispose of dead animal carcasses properly but was acquitted last week of cruelty to animals charges.

At hearings held here earlier this month in the offices of Magistrate Harold R. Deardorff, James G. Angelaras of Silver Springs, Md. was ordered to pay \$100 for each of three improperly disposed cattle carcasses. His total fine included \$78 for court costs.

The hearing on May 10 lasted seven hours and brought to an end a series of complaints by Adams Countians who charged that Angelaras was failing to feed his cattle properly. The Pennsylvania State Police also became involved in the matter and filed charges of animal cruelty. Trooper

Dairy 4-H meeting held

EAST BERLIN - The Central Dairy 4-H Club met recently at the Bud Welsh farm, East Berlin R1. Pledges were led by Jonathan Myers and Joey Welsh.

Members are participating in a club poster contest for "June Is Dairy Month." The posters will be used in conjunction with the dairy exhibit at North Hanover Mall on June 16 and 17.

Dave Norman, Ass't. Co. Agri. Agent, spoke on "Raising a Dairy Calf into a Profitable Cow."

Tommy Welsh, tour committee chairman, reported on tour ideas. The members voted to tour a cheese plant and an ice cream plant near Laurel, Maryland in August.

The next meeting of the club will be on June 12 at the Donald Eyster farm, Spring Grove R4.

Donald Blevins, who prosecuted the case, was unable to get a guilty verdict at the hearing, however.

Neighbors and concerned residents in the area had complained numerous times that Angelaras' cattle were starving and dead animals were subsequently left in the pasture. Magistrate Deardorff delivered his decision of guilty on May 15 but dismissed the cruelty to animals allegation two days later. No reason was given for dismissal of the latter charges.

The incidents which prompted the complaints and resulting hearings were given widespread publicity. The Washington Post devoted more than a half page to the story in its April 2 issue. It included pictures of a dead cow lying at the entrance to one of the Angelaras properties which reporter Barbara J. Katz described as "standing out from most of the tidy farms around them."

The Washington Post staff writer noted:

"On one farm a lone silo stands amidst the burnt remains of a barn and several smaller buildings.

Barbed wire fence drags close to the ground, its supporting posts bent. On another farm, rotting equipment and a pile of old tires lie alongside dilapidated buildings."

Angelaras' operations had been under investigation by health and sanitation authorities from both Maryland and Pennsylvania because of the frequency of complaints received from neighbors and others in the area. Angelaras counters that their allegations are a form of harrassment.

The dead animals charges were brought against Angelaras by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, with supporting testimony coming from several of Angelaras' neighbors. Specifically, Angelaras was charged with failing to properly dispose of dead cattle within the required 48 hours dictated by law.

Adverse weather conditions and the demands of another business hindered the immediate removal of animal carcasses, according to Angelaras who is a consulting architectural engineer. Showing his

passport, Angelaras said he was in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia from Jan. 25 to Feb. 10 on business.

During this time heavy snow and freezing delayed the immediate removal of animal carcasses from his farm, he said.

He told the court he has a policy for the workers on his farms that dead animals are to be removed immediately. "The men are specifically

instructed to call the dead wagon man immediately before they were to do anything else," he said. The "dead wagon" man is a disposal service in Wood-sboro, Md.

Robert Brashears, who supervises the Angelaras dairy farm on Lower Tract Rd. in Fairfield R2 said he couldn't remember how many animals died there in 1977. "I didn't keep track of

them. When I see them die, I call the dead wagon," he said. Brashears said he didn't keep records on the animals at the dairy farm.

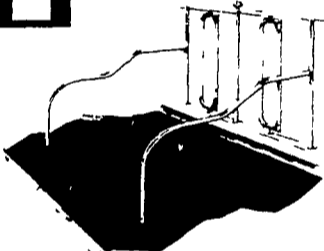
Angelaras admitted he couldn't give an exact count of his animals. "I do not keep records of the number of animals. My accountant does," he said. "I don't even look at the records, because I am so busy with my consulting business," Angelaras said.

Donald Glacken, a former Angelaras employee who worked there until recently, told how heavy snow and freezing hampered feeding and carcass removal.

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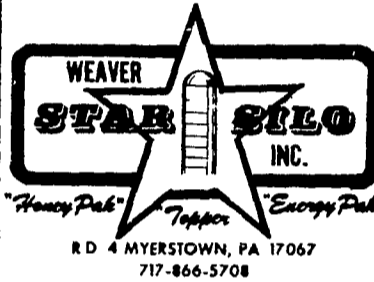
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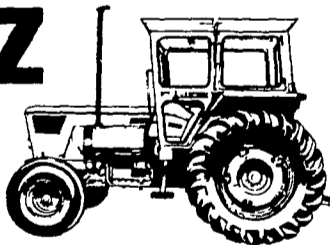


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