

# Rural crime

(Continued from Page 17)

stolen part is used to replace a part of the thief's machinery, leaving the crime victim to spend his own money to repair his equipment.

Trooper Swartwood from Lancaster police considered the incidences of farm crime to be very sporadic, occurring in spurts.

"And it's enough to set the farmer back," he added.

## York Holstein show scheduled

YORK - Shirley Trimmer, co-chairman of the York County Holstein Show, has announced Thursday, August 17, as the date for the annual competition for the county's Holstein herds.

Genie Francisco, Holstein breeder and treasurer of the New Jersey state association, will judge the exhibit, scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. at the York Fairgrounds.

Entry forms can be obtained from the June issue of the state breed publication, or by writing up entries following that format. Set fee is \$2.50 per head and the deadline on entries is August 1; the committee has em-

phasized that no late entries will be accepted.

Although there will be no bull classes, all group classes and a senior yearling fresh class will be included.

Production awards will be given to all cow classes. Cow entries should include the actual highest 305-day or less lactation record, and will be printed in the catalog. Entrants should bring DHIA records to be checked along with registration papers.

Each breeder will be responsible for cleaning his stalls at the conclusion of the show.

Send entries to: Shirley Trimmer, 3 Spring Hollow Drive, Spring Grove, Pa., 17362.

## Traffic safety stressed

UNIVERSITY PARK - Most farm tractor accidents are caused by unsafe methods of operation, lack of safety equipment, hurrying, and working when tired.

Good judgement and constant alertness are keys to preventing accidents. These hints for safer tractor operation are offered by Dennis J. Murphy, Extension safety specialist, The Pennsylvania State University, and the Pennsylvania Agricultural Safety Council.

Carry a first-aid kit and a multi-purpose dry chemical fire extinguisher; never refuel a tractor while the

engine is running; keep small children away from tractors; keep wheels spread wide whenever possible; and stop the tractor before you get off.

Never hitch to the axle or other high points; and keep the tractor in gear when going down hill, letting its engine serve as a brake.

Don't wear loose, sloppy clothing while operating a tractor. They can catch on moving parts.

Engage the clutch gently, especially when pulling up hill. Jack rabbit starts are dangerous, and don't use a tractor for jobs it isn't designed for

I've heard of many cases where parts were taken, or lawn tractors were stolen, that kind of thing."

Swartwood also added that he couldn't recall any cases of large farm equipment being stolen. He could remember one case several years ago when about a half dozen calves were loaded onto a truck and taken to Maryland. The calves were quickly recovered and returned to the owner.

Sgt. Peter Andrusian of the Ephrata police barracks has a more optimistic tale to tell. He has worked at the barracks for more than three years and in that time has heard of very few farm crimes.

"I have never heard of cattle being stolen," he reported. "Sometimes machinery is stolen, nothing real big, and there is some vandalism."

"All in all I would call farm crime pretty rare around here," he added, explaining that his office handles reports in the northeastern section of Lancaster County.

Occasionally official reports are made on farm crime, and in Ohio, Howard Phillips, of Ohio State Rural Sociology Office, has conducted many surveys into the matter. Crime is on the rise and it seems that the farms are not an exception. Phillips has investigated many cases of stolen cattle, farm equipment, and all types of vandalism.

Just how serious the problem is, is another matter altogether. While many individual farmers who have been

hit by such crimes, declare the problem to be out-of-hand, many others look upon it as a rare problem, if one at all.

As with crime in general, it seems to happen only to the "other guy", until it happens in the farmer's own area or his own farm. At that point it becomes a serious problem to the individual, and when many individuals are affected, it is indeed "out-of-hand".

Police, farmers, and county agents are all aware of the increase in farm crime, but it remains difficult to determine if farm crime is reaching the point where it is becoming a real threat to the farmer, and it is even more difficult to decide how it can be stopped.

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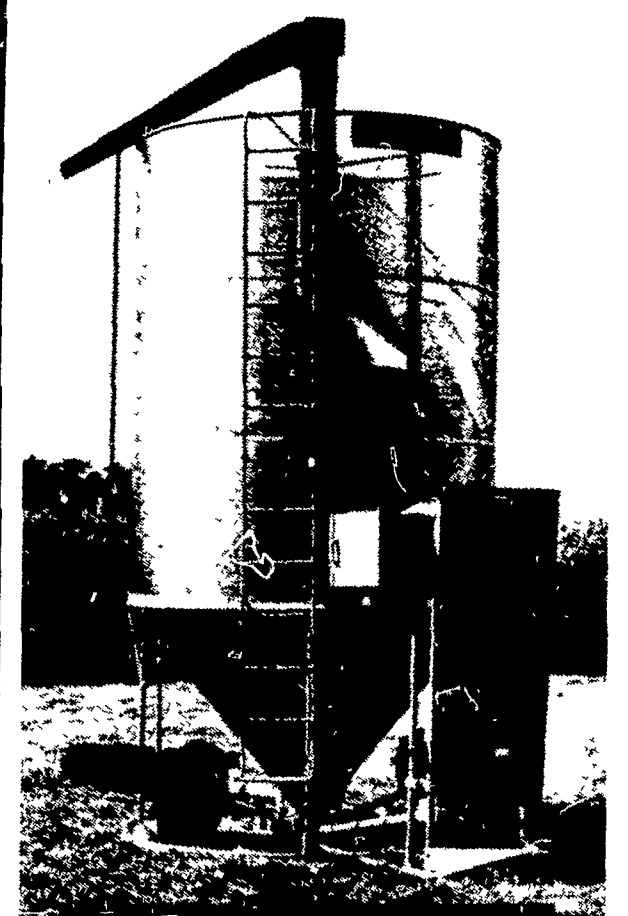
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