

Farming then and now - it's still a way of life

By **JERRY WEBB**
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NEWARK, Del. — When did farming become strictly business and cease to be a way of life? I'm not real sure that this has happened but everyone who is not a farmer and knows anything about farming says that's the way it has to be. That farming can no longer be a way of life in the hard-nosed business environment where it now must operate.

The farm as I knew it as a small boy no longer exists. I'm sure of that. The pre-war machines are rusting in junk piles. The men who ran them are old or have passed on and the horses I loved are no more. Farming to me then was strong, honest men, sweating horses, rattling farm wagons and creaking harness, the smell of new hay, iron-wheeled tractors that started with cranks and Model A trucks. All of those things are gone except for the honest men. And there are a lot fewer of them now.

It's easy to romanticize about farming - to think how wonderful and good it was then and how bad it is now. To some extent, however, it's true. There was a lot of good back then. Things like hard work for men and boys toiling side by side bucking hay bales or shocking wheat. Drinking cold water out of a wooden keg kept under a wet tow sack, listening to men talk about horses and fast cars and Saturday night in town and how to fix a flat tire and how many bushels of wheat they could lift.

There were other good things that made farming a way of life. Things like hearty meals around a huge round table, washing up at a backyard pump, attending a one-room school and riding a horse instead of a fancy school bus.

The good old days included some bad things like very little hard money, hand-me-down clothes, tramping loose hay in a burning hot loft, picking corn by hand in December, milking cows without a machine, shocking barley, sacking grain at the thresher with the wind in the wrong direction, hoeing weeds.

Time and progress have changed a lot of the things I remember about farming — both good and bad. But I'm not sure that many farms have crossed over into the cold world of business. The farmers I meet talk about their independence, the right to choose, being their own boss, making things grow, raising a family on the land, keeping the soil. They gripe about low prices and tell you they

work for less than the legal minimum wage. Yet they wouldn't trade it for a corporation desk and a good salary.

Talk to a farmer about what he likes about farming and he tells you about everything but the business side of things. He hates office work, does it only when he has to — would rather plow than figure profit and loss and feels better in denim than in flannel.

Farming is strictly business to a few farmers. I've visited some of those places and found them lacking. The operators live in towns and commute to the fields. There are few, if any, buildings, machinery is left in the field or under a tree, weeds grow everywhere — taller than the crops, white paint is nowhere to be seen. These farmers may make more money but they seem to enjoy it less.

Compare that to the farmer who has the education to do other things but likes to farm. To him it's more than a business. He greets each day with enough enthusiasm to milk cows at 6:30, do a full day's work in the field or orchard and then attend a farm gathering that night.

He's not rich but he does eat choice meat every day with

little concern over rising food costs. He goes hunting on his own farm, looks out of his barn door at open space and doesn't worry about his kids becoming juvenile bums. There's honest work for them as soon as they are big enough. He has enough machinery to take the drudgery out of farming and enough hard work to keep him on the farm.

Would he give it up for the security of a job? Not likely as long as he can make a living. Nor will he scramble so hard to make a buck that he forgets why he's a farmer. Sure, it's a business and he has an office. He also has a suit. He wears the suit when he goes somewhere special and he uses the office when he has to or when everything else is done.

He and others like him to stay with farming because it's what they want to do. They know it's a business but they aren't forgetting that it's also a way of life.

PUBLIC SALE

ANTIQUES & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Location: 3 blocks east of Oregon Pike (Elby's) take Butler Ave. to 1661 Clearview Ave., Manheim Twp., Lancaster, Pa.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

10:00 A.M.

(4) Oak clothes trees, cedar chest, small book case, (leaded glass front), oak desk chair, pedestal flower stand, mahogany stand, blanket chest, ship trunk, small store display cabinets, magazine rack, lamp stands, piano footed stool, what-not shelf, victrola cabinet, telephone stand, wood stools, wooden store buckets, dinette set, metal step stool, steel folding chairs, steel 4-dr. file cabinet, fireplace screen. Silver tea set, depression, carnival pieces, Syracuse china, egg dish. Lots of glassware, dishes, vases, aluminum cookware, agate pots, roaster, Gone-With-The-Wind (reproduction) glass, paper weights, school slate, store sugar scoops, tin boxes, shoe buttoners, iron Amish collection, cigar boxes, picture frames, oil lamp, pocket knives, stamps by the hundreds in packs, some small dolls, old cards, blankets, spreads, curtains, old news clippings, market baskets, electric digital alarm clock, clock radio, Hamilton, Mixmaster, electric oven broiler, toasters, hotplate, G.E. vac. cleaner, table lamps, elec. opener, Hoover port. vacuum, Bissel rug shampooer, Allen add machine, Toledo store scales, miscell. items, nap sack, sprayer, rake, shovels, hoe, axe, fork, step ladders, apple picker, quart jars, numerous other items.

Sale By
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Auct:
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PUBLIC SALE

REAL ESTATE,
SOME FARM EQUIPMENT
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

1:00 P.M.

Situated along Route 322, 2 miles West of Blue Ball, 6 miles East of Ephrata, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Consisting of a 46 acre farm, more or less. Bank barn, corn barn, tobacco shed, butcher shop, 4-car garage.



2½ story frame and aluminum siding dwelling with 8 rooms and bath, oil heat.

Also 4-apartment building, 3 apartments with 2-bedrooms each and 1 apartment with 1-bedroom. The two upstairs apartments have air conditioning, wall-to-wall carpeting, electric range, refrigerator, washer and dryer. The first floor apartments have an electric range and hardwood floors. These apartments are a sure means for extra income.

Farm equipment includes. Farmall Super A tractor, two-way plow, cultivator, mower, snow plow, Case rubber tire farm wagon with new bed, cultmulcher, lot of steel posts, snow fences, Toledo band meat saw and miscellaneous goods.

For Settlement and Conditions, contact the owner
Personal Property — 1:00 P.M.
Real Estate — 2:00 P.M.

ELMER & LIZZIE SENSENIG
New Holland, PA
Phone: 717-354-5212

Marlin Shreiner, Atty.

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CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1978

9:30 A.M.

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PUBLIC SALE

FARM MACHINERY,
HAY & CORN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

11:00 A.M.

Located ½ mile West of U.S. Rt. 1 at the 472 exit on Bethel Rd. near Oxford, Pa. (signs posted)

Having decided to discontinue farming, will sell the following at public auction:

John Deere 1520 tractor & JD 48 loader; John Deere 620 tractor; two 3-bottom 16" JD plows (3 pt. hitch); Seaman-Andwall roto tiller (3 pt. hitch); 12' JD disc on rubber; 12' cultpacker; 4 section JD harrow; IH 13 disc grain drill; 268 NH baler with thrower; MF 3 pt. hitch rake; 9W JD mower; two 16' bale wagons (high sides); 2 grain boxes, (all wagons on running gears); NI 323 one-row corn picker; Oliver 2 row corn planter (3 pt. hitch); JD flail chopper; 5' 3 pt. hitch rotary mower; JD hay crimper; JD manure spreader; 28' Little Giant elevator, 1969 Chevrolet pickup C-20 (6 cyl., 4 spd. ¾ ton); two JD dual action hydraulic cylinders; cattle head gate; 12' fence gate; fence controller (battery); Homelite chain saw; 3 h.p. electric motor; chains; forks; 6 h.p. Troy tiller (like new).

Hay & Corn

Over 3,000 bales mixed hay; over 3,000 bushels new corn in cribs.

Auctioneer's Note: The above machinery is in very good condition. There are very few small items for auction. Be On Time!

Lunch Available

Terms: Cash or good check

Sale By
BILL DUNCAN

Auctioneer:
George L. Gibney 301-658-5649
Not responsible for accidents day of sale

AUCTION SALE

OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS, FARM MACHINERY, TOOLS, GUNS, ETC.

Located in Blue Ball, MD, midway between Fairhill & Calvert. Signs posted off Rt. 273.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

10:00 A.M.

HH Goods and small items first: School master's desk, 2 wash stands, pitcher & bowl, cottage bureau, dome trunk, old rocking horse, 4 oak chairs, 4 piece bedroom suite, 2 double beds, kneehole desk, Dining room table, mantle clock, 2 sewing machines, lamps, tables, pictures, living room furniture, dishes & glassware, kitchen set, library table, old benches, space heater, refrigerator, automatic washer, gas range, lawn & porch furniture, etc.

Guns: LC Smith DB shot gun, Winchester 12 gauge pump gun, 3 22 rifles - 2 with octagon barrels.

Machinery: Oliver 550 with front end loader, 2 B plow with 3 ph, roto-mower with 3 ph., Oliver 77 row crop tractor, NH 268 hay liner baler with PTO, Oliver mower with 7 ft. cut, Oliver 1 row corn picker, Oliver manure spreader, Oliver 10 disc drill, Mayrath elevator with motor, NI hay conditioner, disc and spring tooth harrows, side rake, 2 RT wagons, McCurdy grain bin, chain hoist, block and fall, extension ladders, B & P & platform scales, bag truck, dehorner, forks and shovels, bench grinder, electric clippers, Toro 888 series riding mower, hand powered mower, roto tiller, wheel barrow, Esco milk tank, 2 Surge units, double tubs, milk cans, electric clippers, corn sheller, old corn by the bushel, hand tools, numerous articles found around the farm and home.

Terms: Cash or equivalent only.

Owner
MRS. LUCY R. MARTINDELL

Auctioneers
Harold S. Hill & Son
215-274-8525

Lunch Available