

**EDITORIAL COMMENTS** By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



# Pennsylvania agriculture deserves a better deal

This year's Farm Show may have marked a turning point in the history of the event. For the past several years the aging complex has been the subject of debates and conversations as to whether it should be torn down and replaced. The official decision, of course, was to spend millions of dollars on renovations. With that, the old facility is bulging at the seams more than ever before.

A number of exhibitors are very disappointed with the new arrangements, to say the least. Said one York County Holstein exhibitor "I hate it, and you can quote me on that."

Dairy exhibitors weren't the only showmen who were upset with the new schedule and floor plan. The beef people didn't particularly like it, and there were even a number of visitors who disapproved. One visiting family, I was told, stopped in Wednesday to see a certain herd of Holsteins, only to find out that they had gone home Monday evening.

Although not everyone who was directly affected by the changes is expressing displeasure, the majority of them are. According to many of the comments, it wouldn't be so bad if

the Farm Show schedule wouldn't be so rushed. Understanding that something had to be done with the Farm Show due to the perennial space and revenue problem, livestock exhibitors say they might be willing to go along with the new plan if they don't have to come in one day and show the next.

Some dairy cattle exhibitors said they weren't given enough time to display their cattle, and some beef cattle showmen, said they weren't given enough time to prepare for their respective ring events. The end result was dissatisfaction. Anticipating just that, a number of exhibitors - especially dairymen - boycotted the show this year in order to protest the new arrangements.

It's easy to see why there was so much unhappiness this year, and it's hoped that by next year the planners of the show will have taken grievances into consideration. The way the show was laid out this year just doesn't make much sense.

Let's begin with the large area which for years was known as the dairy barn. It has easy access to the Large Arena, where the shows take place. Reason would dictate then

that this would be the best place to keep cattle. However, this year it was filled with chickens, ducks, geese, horses, a number of commercial exhibits, and a few cows. Most all of the dairy cows were stabled in the beef barn this year.

Dairy cattle came in Saturday before the Farm Show was officially open to the public; they were in ring competition on Monday, and had to be out of the building by Tuesday to make room for the incoming beef cattle. Dairy cattle, then, were displayed during the actual Farm Show for just one day. Dairymen felt slighted, and rightfully so. Said one in a mild-mannered way, "The number 2 industry in the state should reserve more consideration."

Another factor which is indicative of poor planning is that a fine milking parlor was recently added at one end of the dairy barn. Except for a few cows, however, the closest animals to it were horses and chickens.

As might be expected, milk receives in the dairy room adjacent to the parlor were down considerably. Also, the annual Pennsylvania Dairymen's banquet, held Tuesday, noted a sizable drop in

attendance. In past years the banquet fell on the same night as the dairy shows. But this year that wasn't the case, and by Tuesday afternoon quite a few exhibitors were home or on their way home.

The new schedule has another serious flaw: What happens when the weather really gets bad? Not only will it cause havoc in transportation, it will bring about some severe situations in caring for them. A number of beef cattle entries were kept in vans and trucks this year because of having to wait to get into the building. One bolted from the scene when he was finally released from his cramped quarters and led onlookers, including policemen, on a wild chase through town.

Another sorry fact of the Farm Show is that so many commercial exhibits have to be outside in the cold. Granted, it can't be helped because the present facilities just plain aren't adequate for what Pennsylvania farmers and agribusiness people need.

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**THE BIBLE SPEAKS**  
 Internet and In Person  
 Sunday School Lessons  
 BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

**ARE YOU GROWING?**  
 Lesson for January 14, 1979

A young man in one of my confirmation classes once confessed that he was looking forward to joining the church because it meant he'd no longer have to come to Sunday school. I couldn't fault him for his reasoning, since apparently lots of adults think pretty much the same way.

It is evident that many people believe that Christian growth and nurture are for children and youth who have not yet "arrived." Joining the church for many people signifies that we have reached the goal.

**I Press On**

It is interesting that so great an Apostle as Paul never felt that he had "arrived." In fact, his concept of being a disciple of Jesus Christ was not one of "arriving" at some point, but of continuing to grow toward a goal always just out of reach. If any man was respected in the early church, he was. Yet it was not false modesty, but conviction that caused him to write to the Philippians: "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on..." (3:12).

Paul at times likened life to running a race: "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (3:14). Lift was a continual "upward call," not the attainment of a high point upon which to rest and retire. "Let those of us who are mature be thus minded" (3:15). If we are mature, we will keep moving, not stop.

**Straining Forward**

There are many of us who really are quite satisfied with what we are. We feel no need to grow, to change or to set new goals for ourselves. We are about as loving,

committed, generous, faithful, devout, understanding, and so forth as we were two years ago - and as we are likely to be ten years from now. We expect little more of ourselves than we do the youth who is just beginning his or her Christian life. In fact, in many congregations, we expect more of the young than of the elders!

Others grow, but not by desire. Many of us grow through experiences that we cannot avoid. Our growth is undesired, unplanned and accidental. Paul's attitude presents a glaring contrast:

"... one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead..." (3:13). Paul doesn't fall into growth accidentally, he "strains" forward to find it.

Like the runner, who should not look back, Paul tells us to keep our eye on the "prize" waiting for us at the end of the race. Perhaps that is why we have stopped growing: we've taken our eyes off the prize. Like the hare who raced the tortoise, we tend to get distracted along the way.

So: are YOU growing?



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851

**TO USE FARMER'S TAX GUIDE**

It's Income Tax reporting time when all of us must file a report on our financial condition. For farmers, this gets quite complicated and usually they confront a number of changes.

The Farmer's Tax Guide is published by the Internal Revenue Service and should be of great help to farmers, and to others who are filing

for agricultural concerns. We have a supply at our Extension Office, as do other Extension Agents. These booklets are also available from the Internal Revenue Office.

We recommend these guides in order to help with the tax filing process.

**TO PROTECT SMALL FEEDER PIGS**

For the past two winters there have been a number of small pigs hurt or lost by being too cold in the finishing house. In the farrowing house there is usually supplemental heat; however, when these small pigs are put into the finishing

house without heat, they get chilled and often come down with scours or respiratory infection.

We suggest that hovers, such as boards or boards covered with straw or hay, be put over their sleeping quarters. This will help hold body heat and keep them from getting chilled. When the pigs pile up in cold weather, they are not comfortable and some warmth is needed. After they reach 75 to 100 pounds, they can stand more cold weather without a set-back.

**TO TRANSFER SILAGE**

Livestock and dairy producers who have stored

some silage in temporary structures might be planning to move this silage into the tower silos before warm weather arrives. When this is done during the cold winter months there is less danger of heating and molding. Some producers want to put this feed through the permanent silos in order to make use of their mechanical feeding devices.

Don't wait until warm Spring weather to make the transfer.

**TO EXERCISE DAILY**

Dairy cows that are kept in stanchion or comfort stalls should have access to a paddock or exercise lot

everyday. Regular exercise is just as important to a milking cow as it is to a horse, or any other animal. When cows are turned out daily it provides an opportunity for the owner to detect heat periods. This is very important in order to have the cows freshen each year. Cows that are confined in stalls all the time are difficult to breed at the proper time.

Weather should not prevent outside exercise, but may shorten the length of time outside in severe storms. While the cows are outside, they should be closely observed for the first 10 to 15 minutes for standing heat. When this is done breeding efficiency will usually be improved.

## Farm Calendar

**Monday, Jan. 15**  
 Annual meeting and banquet of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union, Penn Harris Motor Inn, Camp Hill, 10 a.m.

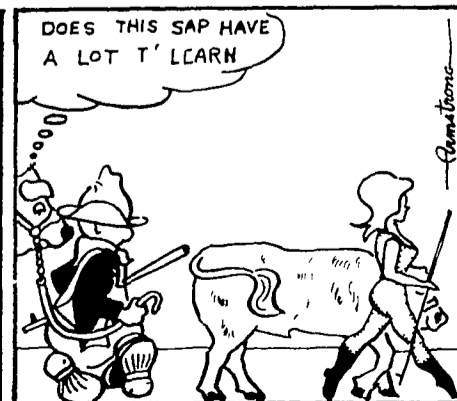
Public meeting for Penn Township (Lancaster County) landowners, 7 p.m. at Penryn Fire Hall.  
 Agronomy Day in Chestertown, Md. for tri-county area.

**Tuesday, Jan. 18**  
 Inter-State Producers membership meeting, 11:45 a.m. at Chestnut Level Presbyterian Church.  
 PFU convention continues in

Camp Hill at the Penn Harris Motor Inn.  
 New Holland Young Farmers swine management meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the high school.

School for orchard management, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Penn State Fruit Research Laboratory, Biglerville. This is the first of 5 such sessions. Contact the Adams County Extension Service for details, phone 717-334-6271.  
 Ephrata Area Young Farmers meeting, 7:45 p.m. at the high school.  
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**RURAL ROUTE**



By Tom Armstrong