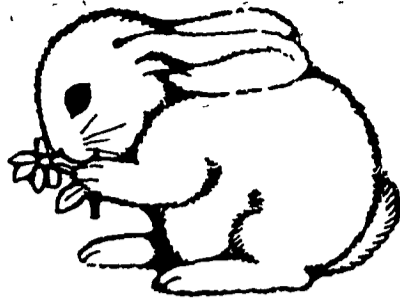


LIFE on the farm

By Dieter Krieg, Editor



Farmers have it made, whether they realize it or not. They're living on the right side of the fence - despite occasional feelings (which I've experienced myself) that the grass is greener on the other side.

Sure, there are problems on the farm. It's certainly not all peaches and cream, as they say. But I believe in the Easter Bunny, you see, and that makes all the difference.

While you and I are "turned on" by the green grass and freshly plowed soil, others less fortunate get their thrills from bottles and bars.

While you and I may have experienced a plow trip over a rock, others less fortunate have tripped over a pill.

While sunshine and flowers make you and me feel joyous all over, some city folks have never known that warmth and beauty.

Yes sir, I'm in full agreement with John Denver when he sings jubilantly: "Thank God I'm a County Boy." Life on the farm is beautiful in more ways than one.

On a recent sunny afternoon, as I drove through the country, I marveled at white barns and the silos with their sparkling tops. Green fields were beginning to appear and ponds glistened in the sunlight.

Our beautiful farmland, what a precious sight! It's a pity that some folks aren't aware of the pure beauty that radiates from our land.

I believe that we're all born with a curiosity and wonder for what abounds in Nature. Unfortunately, those feelings escape us to some degree as we grow older. We get away from the simple and innocent and pure. The majestic beauties of Nature aren't as easily seen.

We don't have time for Easter Bunnies anymore because we know they're not real creatures.

But what they represent is real - isn't it?

Warmth, beauty, faith, hope, triumph, love and even life itself - aren't these what Spring, and Easter are all about?

I'm glad my children find it necessary to stop and observe life in the cracks of the sidewalk, even though it may not suit my schedule to be so delayed. And I'm glad they drag the pine cones into the house, even though it makes a mess. And those sticks they "plant" in the yard, in hopes that they'll grow into trees, I'm thankful for their innocent faith. They bring their mother a dandelion as a present and they care about birds, insects, flowers, and even weeds. They get turned on by that sort of stuff. I wish more kids would be.

My prayer for this Easter is: May God be praised for providing the bright and beautiful gifts, and may he continue to have us see them. And may others become more aware of those treasures too.

Happy Easter, everyone!

Stauffer homestead

(Continued from Page 19)

Leola agreed to take the remaining four at \$60 a head.

Second place in lightweights, shown by Little Piggy Hill Farm, had a top bid of \$71 from a representative of the Cecil County Livestock Club, who chose to pay that for one of the group. Meadowood Farms of Elverson R2 paid \$65 each for the next six head and the last one in the group went to Clyde Hunt of Millersville for \$57.

W.E. Kreider chose to take three at \$55 a head when the third place lightweight pen was brought into the auction ring. It was exhibited by David Glass of Birdsboro R1. The remaining five were sold to Henry Zook at \$51 each.

The third place mediumweight pen, exhibited by Eli Zeiset of Morgantown R1, was auctioned off

to David Smith of Denver and Steve McMichael of Willow Street R1. Smith paid \$57 for his choice of one, while McMichael chose the remaining seven at \$55 per head.

Ed Ranck, owner of the third place heavyweight entries, weighing an average of 56 pounds each, sold his pigs to Jay Zimmerman of New Holland R1, the Cecil County Livestock Club, and Clyde Hunt. Their respective bids were \$69 for one, \$64 for one, and \$61 for the other six.

Other placings of the show were as follows: Lightweights - 4. Elam Beiler, 5. Isaac Beiler; Mediumweights - 4. Larry Weaver, 5. Dutch Valley Farms; Heavyweights - 4. Dale Nolt, 5. Valleys End Farm.

A total of 284 head were sold for a total of \$16,564.

Lamb prices jump the fence at markets

(Continued from Page 28)

Shearer said the next large market will be this Fall. "They won't flood the market" he said, "but it will be overloaded for a short period of time." Shearer explained that many producers will have their ewes lamb when the grass is up in the Spring. These lambs will be ready for the Fall markets in October and November. "Even if the price does drop down 10 cents" he said "the producer is still making more clear money because he is not putting the grain into his lambs like he would if he was marketing them in the Spring."

Dr. Robert Herr of Narvon, said "a lot of people overlook the Christmas market. If people can drop lambs in the Fall and sell them at the Christmas

market, they will do just as well." Herr said at this past year's Christmas sales, 80-100 pound rams were selling at about \$80 per hundred weight. He added that not too many sheep are available at that time.

Kid goats were also intermingled with the lambs. Elmer Beiler, a goat breeder from Lancaster said that so far he has "found the Easter market to be best" for his kids. Beiler said he averaged "about a dollar per pound this year".

The milk fed kids also received higher prices than the grain fed. "You can easily tell a milk fed from a grain fed goat" Beiler said. He explained the milk fed kids were naturally more

healthy, stronger and faster growing.

A special goat and lamb sale was held in Courtland, Va., on April 3. Kids sold at \$24-\$34 for large; \$19-30 for medium; and \$14-17 for small kids. Heavy lambs, 95-113 pounds went from \$61.00-67.50.

Beiler explained most goat breeders try to have their stock bred in the early Fall so they will have their kids near the Easter market. He felt the Easter and Greek Easter markets were about equal for selling his kids, but said the price will "drop to about half" after the holidays. Lyle Cameron, at the Belleville Auction felt that goats were "cheaper this year because they were smaller in size than last year."

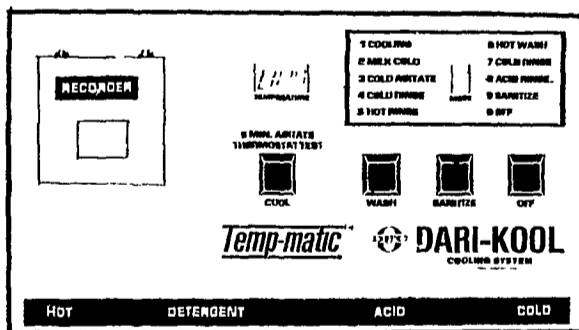
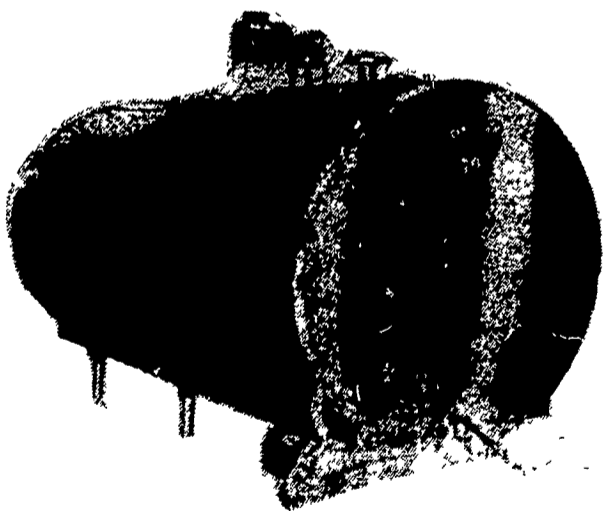
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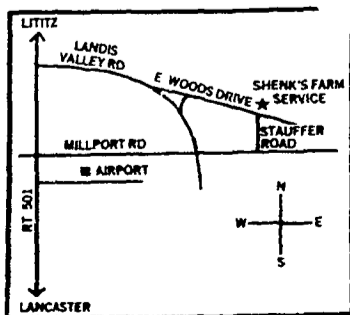
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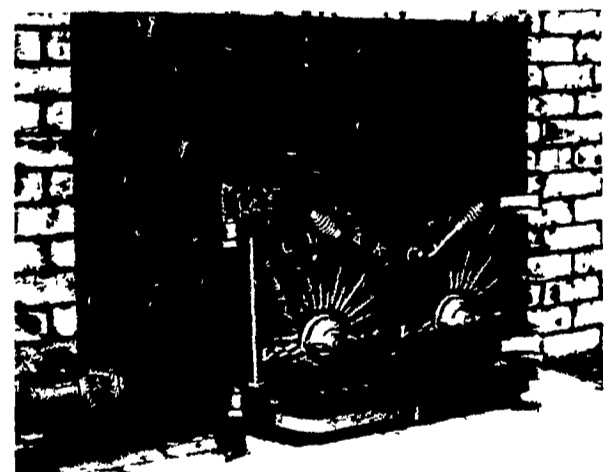
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