

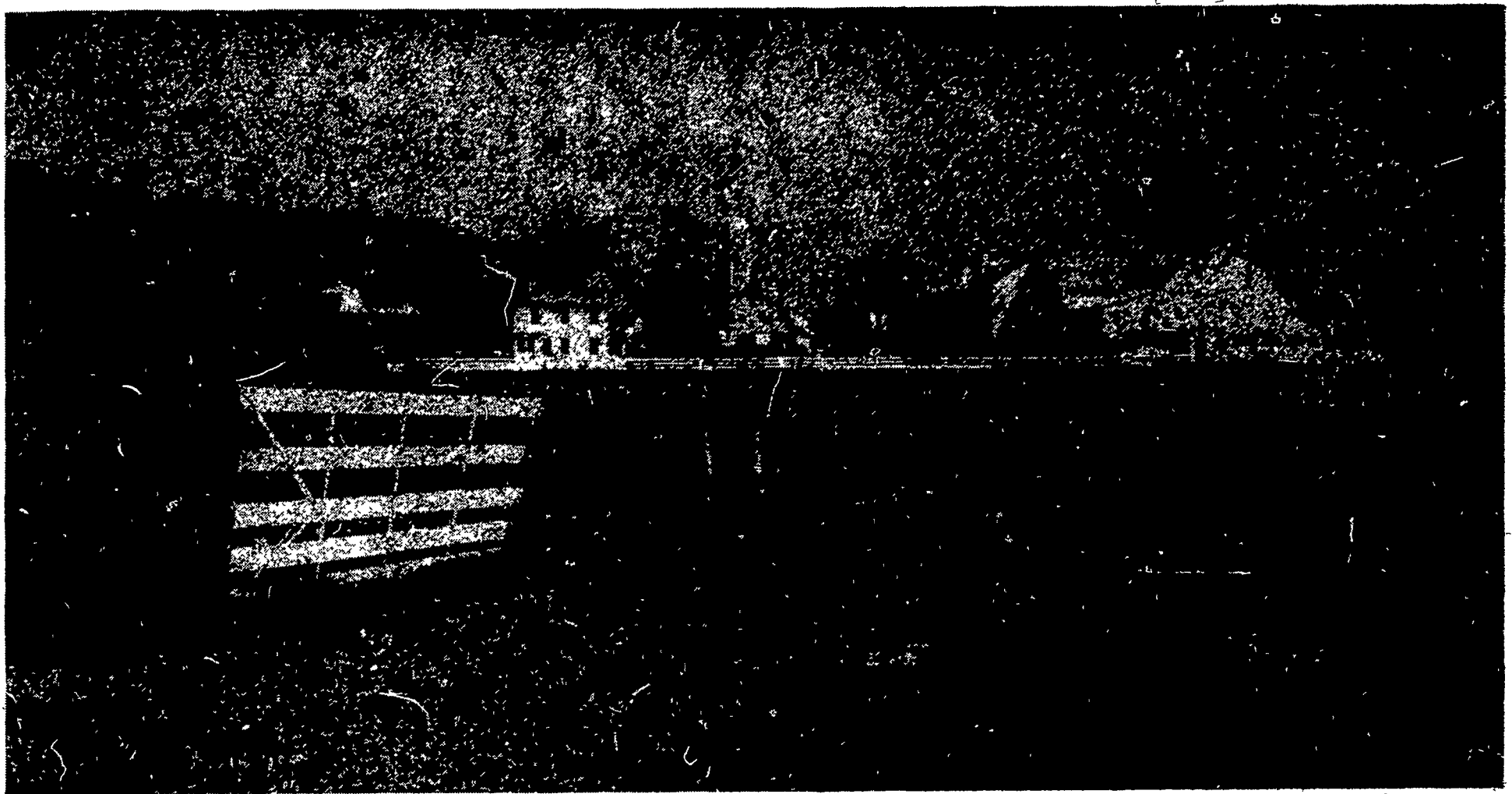
Lancaster Farming

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Off the beaten path, Spring has an open invitation to this farm near Churchtown.

Lancaster Farming Photo By Joan Liesan

Tips given to help prevent barn arson

By KENDACE BORRY
LITITZ — Most barns that are the targets of arsonists are those that are easily accessible to roadways. That's the opinion of Trooper David B. Fisher, state police fire marshal at the Lancaster State Police.

He told that most barns that are hit are sitting close

to the road, with the house back from the road. Those are the ones that are the most vulnerable, he commented.

"Of course, if it's a spite or grudge fire, one that is specifically done, the building can't be protected," he noted. "It would be the same as if someone was

trying to shoot you, you couldn't run around all the time wearing a bullet proof vest."

Other than for a grudge though, he told that most property hit by an arsonist is fired just for the thrill and excitement, or done by a pyromaniac. This is usually when the very accessible

buildings are picked to be burnt.

"There is always at least one blind side to a barn," he related, "and I would protect the blind sides."

Some ways of doing that would be to use lighting to call attention to that side or having dogs in the area. He also mentioned mechanical

electronic devices which would tell if someone was around the premises.

"If someone is going to try and burn a barn, they will usually enter the barn, because it is so easily accessible. The fire is set inside the barn," he stated.

Usually a barn fire is set with an open flame, such as

a match or cigarette lighter, and the fire is set on the second floor, where the hay or straw is. Within five to ten minutes, the entire floor is covered with flame.

"There is a large air space in barns, with easy access to oxygen," he explained. "The

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Rising farm values boosting needs for insurance

By DIETER KRIEG
LANCASTER — The rising values of farms, machinery, and cattle and changing trends are boosting the need for insurance in agriculture, say advisors who specialize in protecting farms and agribusiness. And while insurance may be difficult to understand for most people,

specialists say the solution lies in having a good, trustworthy, dedicated agent who will look out for the needs of his clients.

A farmer should have his insurance reviewed every year, say three men who specialize in offering security to farmers. This is to make sure that any newly

acquired livestock, pieces of equipment, buildings or other improvements are included on the policy as soon as possible. Otherwise, if an item is lost, and it wasn't included on the policy, the farmer could end up facing the loss all by himself.

Bernard Morrissey, a

northern Lancaster County representing Agway insurance says that farm insurance is basically high-risk. "That's why you have so few companies writing farm policies," he explained.

According to Morrissey, whose agency is in Denver, the farmer often does not get

his money's worth when he goes shopping for insurance. He adds that companies have in general overlooked agriculture instead of recognizing it as a business.

John Hulse of Mechanicsburg would agree. Like Morrissey, he specializes in insurance for farmers. He visits his clients

regularly, reviewing with them their needs, and gives each of his farms an aerial inspection at least once a year. To do that he hires a pilot with a small plane. As he is being flown about the countryside, he photographs each of the farms he insures.

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In this issue

A new silage being experimented with at the University of Delaware is relished by cows and yielding 1000 pounds of milk per head. It could be grown on your farm too. An article on page 110 tells what it's all about.

We're adding a new feature this week. It's "The Dairy Business," written by Lebanon County Agent and former dairyman, Newton Fair. His article appears on page 132.

Cesar Chavez, farm labor union leader, couldn't answer the questions farmers and farm wives had for him during a recent television show in Washington D.C. Gail McPherson of York County reviews the experience on page 126. And, Chavez's group, the United Farm Workers, is further challenged in an article on page 49.

Noting that cattle rustling is on the increase, the state of Maryland has implemented plans to do something about such crimes.

Certified Angus Beef, a unique program that has been the subject of cattlemen's conversations for months, is now reality. Page 107 has details.

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Polio vaccine offered

LANCASTER — The polio virus has been found in several Pennsylvania Amish communities. Since there is frequent visiting between Lancaster County and these communities, it is possible that the polio virus is present in Lancaster County. With time and warmer weather, the virus could become active and cause some cases of polio here. Polio can be prevented by a vaccine given by mouth. The public health nurses are prepared to provide the vaccine free at a time and place convenient for Amish families.

For more information or suggestions on a time and place, please write to Ethel Hershey, Health Center, 439 East King Street, Lancaster, Pa. 17602 or call 299-7597 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday.