

Chuting match

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down and stepped on her back.

Lynn said that she feels there needs to be more security in the big arena; not necessarily more guards, but guards who are doing their job instead of watching the show.

Gene Sweigard is also concerned with the safety of the junior and open show exhibitors. "With the type of cattle being shown today, the chances are worse for people

getting hurt. The cattle are exotic crossbred's that are naturally high strung."

Frank Darcey shares these sentiments. He added that he felt that a lot of the problems are the result of school kids using the Farm Show as an excuse to have a day off from school, and getting bored.

He, as spokesman for the Polled Hereford Association, suggested to the Farm Show director that a minimum general admission be charged. This was offered after last year's show as a possible solution to the problem.

Sweigard offered his ideas on a possible solution for controlling the crowd in the large arena. He said that the upper sections of the arena could be roped off. The security guards could keep the spectators in the lower levels where they could watch for trouble and evict the persons throwing bombs, cider jugs, ketchup and assorted goodies onto the cattle and exhibitors.

"The trouble in the large arena discourages juniors from showing," Sweigard commented. "It's hard enough to keep the kids interested without getting them scared or hurt. It seems the Farm Show directors care about

everything except the exhibitor."

Tony Dobrosky was also concerned about the exhibitors showing in the large arena. He remarked that last year a religious organization sold records during the Farm Show. "When one of those records came sailing down from the top deck, it could almost cut your head off."

He added that with crowds from 7,000 to 9,000 people watching the shows during the week, it should justify having more than two to four policemen on the job. "The security ought to be beefed up," Dobrosky commented.

Getting cattle through the crowds from the beef barn to the large arena is another problem. Last year exhibitors weaved through a crowd totalling over 450,000. "People just don't realize that these are not pets...they are still animals," emphasized Lynn Orley.

She cited an incident where she was leading a show heifer to the ring at a recent show. People were crossing in front of her and when they saw the animal coming, then panicked. The heifer was scared and started to run forward, bumping into a baby stroller. Luckily, no one was hurt, but it points out that the chances of injury are not impossible.

In order to have more safety in moving cattle to and from the large arena,

Fred Frey suggested that all the livestock in a division be taken in as a herd; for example, all the Angus heifers would be led in together. Gene Sweigard came up with the idea roping off an alley way.

These types of solutions would not be needed, according to Frank Darcey, if the monies, appropriated and voted on by the State legislators several years ago, were used for the purposes they were intended for...expanding and improving the Farm Show facilities. "There's just not enough space", he stated.

When asked what the chances were of having the complex expanded, Secretary Hallowell explained that the monies would have to be reappraised before anything could be done. However, he said that he was hopefully optimistic that the work would be done by next year's show.

Hallowell was surprised to learn that cattlemen were interested in the possibilities of having a two-week show rather than a one-week show. He said that he wasn't aware of any letters having been received expressing these sentiments.

He did say that the chances of the Farm Show being extended to two weeks were small, primarily because the machinery exhibitors were scheduled

too tight to fit in another week.

The ag secretary mentioned that this year the show would open to the public at 1 p.m. on Sunday, therefore giving it some additional time.

This isn't exactly what the cattlemen had in mind. They suggested that the show be extended to 10 days so that the dairy and beef exhibitors would have more time.

It was proposed that the dairymen exhibit one week, and the beef people show the next. In this way, each would have a full week of showing, unlike last year where they moved the dairy exhibitors out in the middle of the week and moved the beef in.

The cattlemen pointed out that this would give the farm show director more space for more entries and commercial exhibits. It would

also give spectators more time to leisurely view the livestock and machinery, and all the school students wouldn't have to come on one or two days.

Frank Darcey noted that because of the space problem livestock exhibitors are limited to two entires in any one class this year. He stated that this could lead to problems with get-of-sure where four animals, with one sire, are shown. Darcey also mentioned that there are some people threatening reverse action suits against the Farm Show commission as a result of the limited entries.

Secretary Hallowell announced that he has personally put in his order for good weather for the Farm Show Week. This may not be enough to stop the storm that is brewing.

Think before planning tree location

UNIVERSITY PARK, Md. - Safety precautions are vital to a safe Christmas holiday. Gary L. Smith, Maryland's extension agricultural engineer offers suggestions for a safe Christmas Season.

1. Do not put decorations near chairs or other places where people may smoke.

Put them well above the head of anyone standing up.

2. Remove all gift wrappings and packing materials from the room once you have opened packages. Do not try to burn all of them at once in the fireplace.

3. Disconnect lights when no one is around.

4. Use a ladder when decorating high places indoors.

5. Buy toys that are non-flammable, free of sharp edges, and with non-toxic paint. Avoid toys with loose parts such as pinned eyes and removable wheels.

6. Do not use net or gauzelike fabric for dresses, costumes, or children's clothes. Loosely woven fabrics easily catch fire.

7. If clothes catch fire, don't run. Throw the victim to the floor and wrap him in a rug or blanket. Make sure the cover is snug around the victim's neck so to keep the toxic fumes of combustion from the victim. If no blanket is available, roll the victim on the floor. Get him to a doctor or hospital as soon as possible.

8. If a person is in contact with a shorted electric wire, either stop the current by unplugging the cord or pull the person from the wire with a dry stick or rope. Artificial respiration may be necessary if breathing has stopped.

9. Bubbling tree lights may contain methylene chloride, which is slightly poisonous if swallowed. Caution children of this danger.

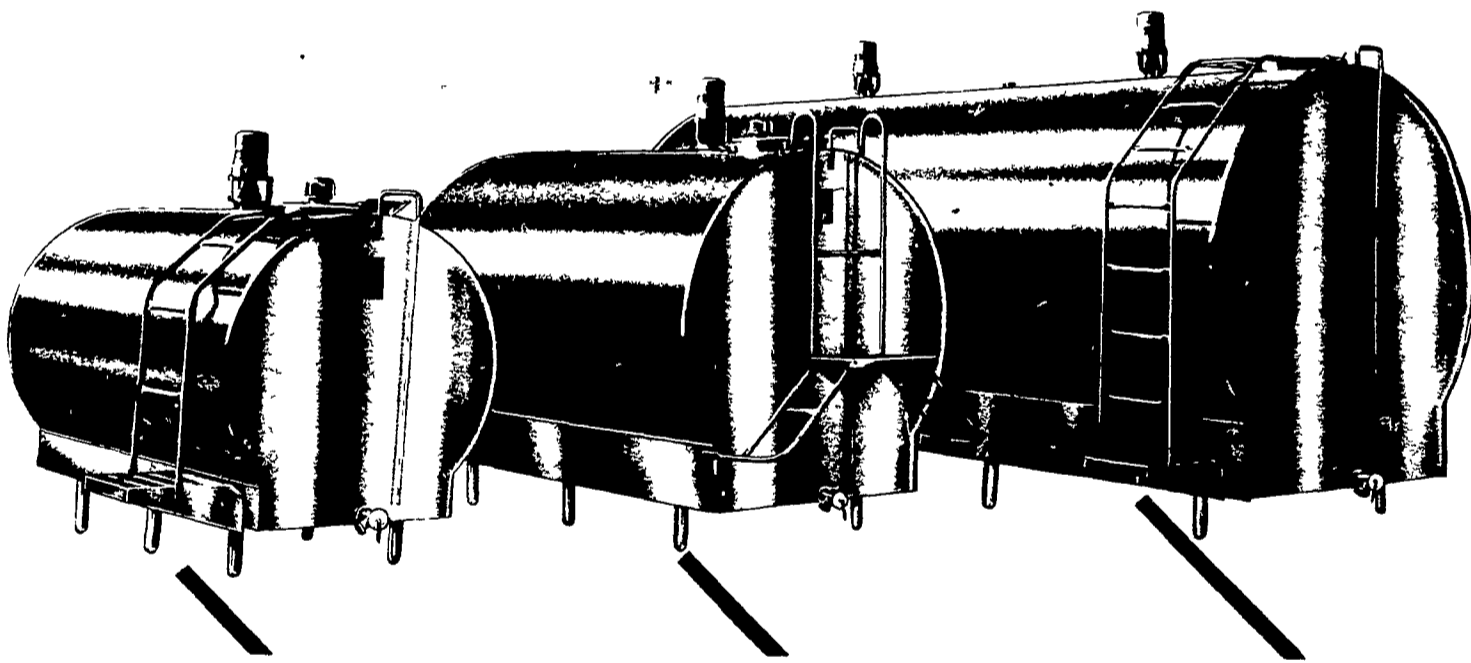
10. Berries on holly and mistletoe contain unknown poisons that produce severe vomiting. Keep these away from children.



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