

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



# Lancaster Farming says...

## Yet another round for Farm Show

The history of the Farm Show Complex throughout the 1970s has been that of a sorely punch-drunk fighter trying to stay on his feet with help from all sorts of people.

Age and use alone have battered the Complex over the years. It appeared the Complex might bite the dust a few years ago when the Harrisburg Fire Marshall declared it unsafe and threatened to count it out for good.

The Farm Show Commission rushed into the fray to provide a multi-million dollar renovation of the fire prevention and electrical systems in the Complex.

But the Fire Marshall's actions were just love taps compared to the punches landed by Mother Nature.

She connected with several roundhouse blows during the decade, any one of which would have been enough to spell the end for a building with less tradition and spirit than the Farm Show.

In 1972 Hurricane Agnes laid the Complex out flat. No sooner did the Complex stagger to its wobbly feet than another crashing blow was landed.

This time it was Hurricane Eloise, disrupting a dairy show then in

progress. But again the Complex bounced back to face the next bell.

Farm Show received a boost in 1978 with an infusion of steel fire doors, a new corridor for fire safety, a new roof, new lighting and electrical lines.

The simple fact the Farm Show could come out for another season was fine testimony to the men in the Complex's corner. First it was Show Director Wellington Smith. Now it is Director Hugh Coffman.

Both have dug deep into their bag of tricks to keep the Complex from falling on its face.

Last year farmers roared in complaint when the dairy and beef cattle schedules were split so dairymen had animals at Farm Show for only the first half of the week with beef cattle coming in later.

For farmers it was more painful than slicing open a closed eye.

Show Director Coffman decided the remedy was too painful.

This year the sacrifice will be made by commercial exhibitors — many of whom are sacrificing 10 percent of their exhibit space so more firms can have a ringside seat at Pennsylvania's top agricultural event.

Problem is, it's exhibitors who pay

the freight for the otherwise free show. And they're not thrilled about the cutback.

An extra day, Sunday, was added to the schedule so more people can see the event, and partly to give commercial exhibitors a day's hedge against traditionally bad Farm Show weather.

They feel they deserve credit for packing the house. Understandably, they want a better deal.

One such suggestion, lost in the roar of the crowd as Farm Show gamely faces its 64th round, is the old plea to erect a new Farm Show Complex on high and dry ground.

The state rejected such a proposal in early 1972. And it proceeded to invest \$10 million to clean up after Hurricane Agnes, another few million to put up the new beef building used for the first time last year, and in 1980 plans to spend another \$270,000 or so for a new water system.

All of that is money invested in a somewhat broken-down old fighter when the future, proponents claim, is to be found in a new, modern facility.

The likelihood of the state shelling out funds for a new complex is about zero. Repeated rejection of such

plans by governors of both parties emphasizes that.

Those favoring a new facility have dozens of convincing statistics about how such an arena would boost local economy, draw other shows to central Pennsylvania, and give almost unlimited possibilities for an expanding Farm Show.

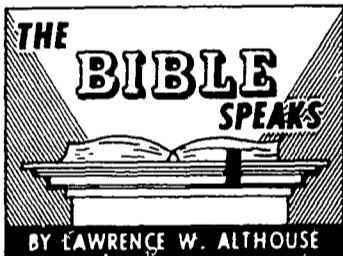
A new building could be like a splash of cold water in the face of the tired Complex.

But if that splash is going to come, it'll have to be from private investors, a stock corporation, or other non-governmental source. It'll have to be a hundred million dollar splash.

If we are to get a new Complex, we'll have to foot the bill ourselves. In the long run it may be better to have it funded privately than with tax dollars. And we'll ask our own wallets whether it is necessary.

In the meantime, the bell is ringing for another round... Farm Show 1980 runs January 6 through 11 at the tired but true Complex off I-81 north of Harrisburg.

Enjoy the spectacle and try to ignore the battle scars and plaster patches which are keeping the Farm Show Complex on its feet for yet another round.



### JESUS' FAMILY

Lesson for January 6, 1980

#### Background Scripture:

John 2:1-12; 7:1-13; 19:25b-27.

#### Devotional Reading:

Mark 2:18-22.

It is sometimes said that "Behind every great man

there stands an amazed mother-in-law." We ought not pick on just mothers-in-law, however, but extend that dubious honor to other members of the immediate family. We all remember what Jesus said about the receptivity of the prophet's own countrymen—"A prophet is not without honor except in his own country..."—but we tend to forget that he added "...and his own house!" (Matthew 13:57).

#### They Have No Wine

The gospels tell us nothing of Joseph once the Holy Family is settled in Nazareth. It is assumed,

although not known, that he was older than Mary and therefore died by the time Jesus began his public ministry. Fleeting references are made to the brothers of Jesus indicating that they must have had mixed feeling about the religious vocation of their celebrated and despised older brother. Even Mary betrays conflicting reactions to him, although in all four accounts of the passion and resurrection of Jesus we see Mary as a devout disciple as well as mother of Jesus. The view we get of Jesus' family, then, is one of both striking insights and nagging skepticism—a very human

reaction with which we can all identify.

This is apparent at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry when he and his family attend a wedding feast in Cana, a neighboring town of Nazareth. John records for us only two brief remarks of Mary, but they are very revealing for us, not to mention their relevance for our own lives.

First of all, John tells us, "When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine'" (John 2:3). Of course, this might have been simply an offhand remark on Mary's part: Have you heard they're all

out of wine! But John is not the kind of writer to include wedding party chit-chat and we must suspect that this simple remark points to something deeper. Why would Mary tell Jesus about this mundane problem—unless she knew of: (1) Jesus' compassion for people in difficulty and (2) His ability to do mysterious and amazing things to help people in need. "They have no wine," Mary told him, just as you and I tell him, "I'm short of money, I don't know what to do with my son, I'm troubled about my work, I'm discouraged with my marriage." These may seem trifling to tell the Son

of God, but we do because we know he cares.

Next, Mary says to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you" (2:5). She could hardly have known what Jesus was going to do, but she knew her son and she realized that, not only did he have compassion upon people in their everyday needs, but he also had the power to help them meet those needs. In time, then, his family came to understand the same assurance that is ours today—although we may not fully understand him or what he will do, he will help us meet our needs if we—"Do whatever he tells us to do."



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent  
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### TO SEGREGATE NEW ANIMALS

The addition of a new animal to the herd, or flock,

is a very common practice. However, there is always the chance of bringing new infections into the herd. Too many diseases and problems have been brought by the owner. At this time of year, and in this part of the state, the State Farm Show

provides opportunity for showing animals and the purchase of new ones. To those who are exhibiting animals, and to those who might buy a bred gilt, or other animals, I'd say be sure to segregate these animals from the rest of the

herd or flock for at least 30 days. The other alternative is to treat all animals in the herd or flock for the same infections as the new animal has received. Sanitation and segregation are two very important

items in good livestock health programs.

### TO BEWARE OF PARASITES

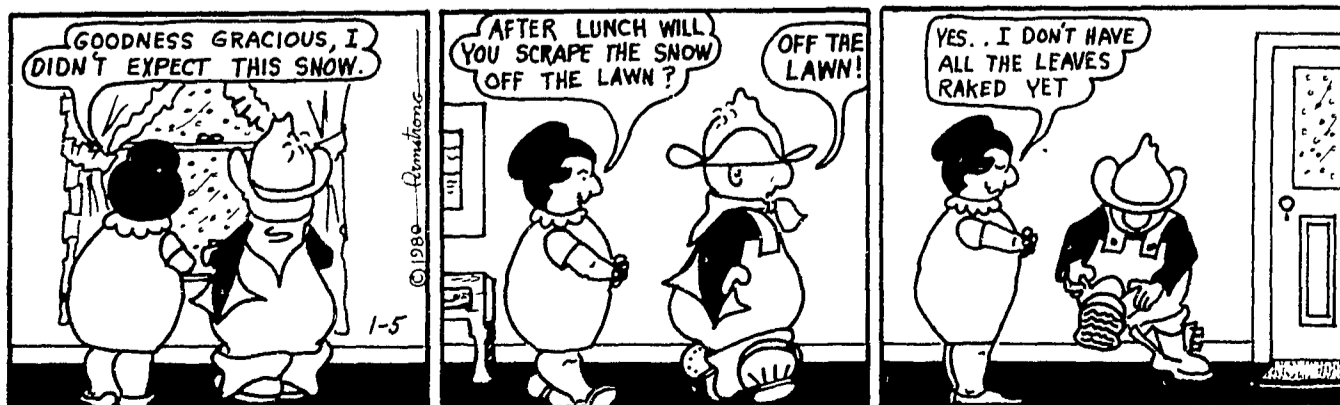
Livestock parasites can mean the difference between profit and loss on most operations. I'm referring to both internal parasites (stomach worms), and to external problems such as

lice, ticks, and mange. Owners should be on the alert at all times for these parasites that suck blood from the animals and reduce gains and production. Fecal samples can determine the internal infestation while careful observation of the behavior of the animals can

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### RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



## Farm Calendar

**Sunday, January 6**  
The 64th Annual Pennsylvania Farm Show opens in Harrisburg. The show will continue through Friday, January 11. For a program of events, see Section D, page 28.

**Monday, January 7**  
Hunterdon County, N.J. bus

trip to the Pennsylvania Farm Show.  
Hunterdon County, N.J. Foods Council meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
Lancaster County FFA meeting at the Willow Street Vo-Tech School.

**Tuesday, January 8**  
Hunterdon County, N.J. (Turn to A13)