

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

KILE — get the show together

Glenn Kean, co-chairman of the Keystone International Livestock Exposition, said at last week's show if KILE loses money another year there might not be a show in 1982.

There will be a 1981 Exposition, however, complete with the Polled Hereford Standard of Performance show. But between now and next October there's a lot which will have to come to pass if KILE is to stay above water.

There are big things and little things that need to be changed. One big thing is money. Why should the state give KILE funds for the show and then turn around and charge KILE rent for the Farm Show Building?

Despite their efforts, are county agents really qualified to run an international livestock show? There's a lot more to coordinate at KILE with out-of-state exhibitors and livestock than at a county fair where exhibitors are local and known to everyone.

Comments and attitudes exhibited in the show ring by some agents indicate they would rather be at

home — and KILE would be better off without their disinterest.

The Public Address and paging system in the Farm Show Complex is poor at best. Some exhibitors this year missed weigh-ins and classes because they didn't hear announcements.

The show catalogs in some cases were just about worthless. The swine book, for instance, was good for getting exhibitors' names and addresses but not for the show.

And why were cattle and sheep housed on the main exhibit floor? Show animals are too valuable to have them slipping around the tile floor in the main hall. Attempts to roll out tar paper sheets for better footing were almost unrecognizable by the end of showing on Monday — the paper slipped and roiled creating little if any relief to the slick tile conditions.

Horse stalls, partly empty, filled the dairy and beef barns, and horses monopolized the large arena. Horses are nice, but they weren't named king of the show to our knowledge.

Meantime cattle were judged in the poultry barn — in a show ring obstructed by beams and dimmed by poor lighting. Hills and valleys in the floor, one exhibitor claimed with only slight exaggeration, could make the tallest animal in a class look like the shortest.

Even though moving KILE up a month seemed a good idea to attract exhibitors from Eastern National and Richmond, Va. shows, a number of big name livestock breeders did not show up.

The craft show was a hoax. It was split with the exhibit at Bensalem. There were only half a dozen exhibitors at KILE — but why a craft show to build interest in animals?

Outside interest admittedly was lacking. And the dollar parking fee was waived for anyone who got to KILE at the right moment.

Show Manager Charles Itle said having parking attendants on duty only during heavy traffic times was an economy move. It was difficult to find a time when attendants were on duty, even over the weekend. But

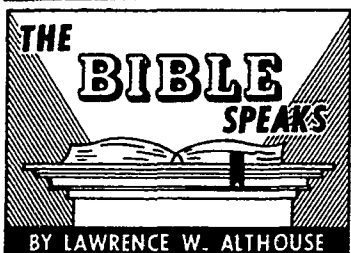
then, it was difficult to find a time when traffic to KILE was anything like heavy.

This is not to slam KILE. Pennsylvania agriculture deserves an international showplace. If KILE weren't worth saving, it wouldn't be worth taking the time to point out the need for change.

But improvement is needed and soon. Better organization and management, better facilities or better use of existing ones, better pre-show publicity to get livestock exhibitors and breeders to the show — the real reason for KILE anyway.

If KILE cannot revamp its program and interest in the show continues to die from a spectator as well as sponsor attitude, the only ones who will be losing are the tax-paying livestock producers. It's their show and they'll have to sit up and make it go — get it back on the right track.

Changes, deeper than cosmetic changes, are needed if KILE is to salvage its image and rebound back to a deserved position of prominence.



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

THE ONE, TRUE ELEPHANT

October 19, 1980

Background Scripture:

Jeremiah 31.

Devotional Reading:

Ezekiel 18:25-32.

Clyde Reid, in his challenging book, THE

RETURN TO FAITH (Harper & Row 1974), tells a parable about the men of a little village who one day found a beautiful elephant. So enamoured of that elephant were they that they captured him and put him in a big tent so that others might see him too. But the great crush of people who came to see him convinced

the elders of the village to build a temple around the tent in order to protect the elephant from the crowds.

Two things happened to the elephant in time. First, the elephant gave birth to quintuplets who crawled out from under the tent and

escaped into the world. And, Secondly, the elephant died. But the elders of the village denied that the elephant was dead. As Reid tells it: "They had too many programs prepared in advance, the offerings were too lucrative, and the paid elephant keepers who took care of the temple didn't want to lose their jobs." So, instead of admitting their elephant had died, they continued to expand the temple complex even larger. The dead elephant began to smell bad, but the keepers continued to deny that he was dead.

THE "ONE, TRUE ELEPHANT!"

From time to time people

would report that they had seen the elephant's offspring here and there in the countryside, but the keepers ridiculed these reports. "Everyone knows the only real elephant is the one in our temple," said the keepers.

And Reid concludes: "And for a time the people were satisfied, for they continued to come to the temple, hoping for a glimpse of the one true elephant."

This shaggy elephant story cuts pretty close to the bone, doesn't it? Just as Jeremiah the Prophet of Israel was calling the people of God to a new and living relationship

with God in place of a dead elephant that their religion had become. It was a religion of the temple, a place, a thing, an altar. It was the religion law written on scrolls. But that live and vibrant faith that had caused the temple to be built and inspired the preservation of the laws was now a dead and putrid thing. They had allowed the old covenant to become stagnant and decay.

A NEW COVENANT

So Jeremiah was calling Israel to give up the dead elephant and accept a new covenant with God—one that would not be chiseled into temple walls or copied on

scrolls, but in the hearts of the people. It was not to be just another covenant to replace the old one, but a new covenant. The new covenant called for a new maturity, a new responsibility on the part of the people. The experience of God would no longer be a second-hand relationship, for "they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest" (3:14).

It was an exciting promise he was holding out to the people of Israel. The only trouble with it was that it meant giving up that dead carcass they had become to regard as "the one, true elephant."



TO BEWARE OF FROSTED CROPS

Jack Frost is due at any time and may already have appeared by the time this article is printed. Crops such as Sudan Grass and the Sudan-Sorghum crosses may

contain dangerous amounts of prussic acid after a killing frost. This will be toxic to livestock. Growers should not feed this frosted material to their animals for at least 7 days following the frost. After that time and if the plants are dead and dry, it may be used as a forage or for bedding purposes.

If made into silage or hay during that first week, it should be allowed to ferment or cure for at least 6 weeks

before being fed. New growth from these plants after a killing frost should also be considered as toxic and dangerous. In addition livestock should not be permitted to graze legumes, such as alfalfa or clover, while frost is on the plant; allow the frost to melt and the plant to dry to avoid serious bloating problems.

TO PREPARE FOR FREEZING WEATHER

Don't say that it is too early to be preparing for freezes, because it can

happen at any time. November is just two weeks away and we have experience some snows and hard freezes the first week of November. Water pipes should be buried, or protected with electric heating tape, when outside or in a building without livestock or heat. Water-cooled motors need to be drained or the addition of anti-freeze solutions. Don't put this off until freezing weather arrives because it might be too late. Now would

be an excellent time to install additional insulation to prevent condensation, and to save on fuel consumption.

TO CHECK THE EWE FLOCK

This is the breeding season for many sheep flocks in this part of the country; shepherds are urged to take note of the breeding success of their ewes. If the ewes keep returning in heat, after being bred two or more times, then another ram should be used. In too many

cases it is not discovered that the ram is not settling the ewes until it is too late to breed. The use of a breeding apron on the ram has been used successfully to discover the ewes that are not with lamb.

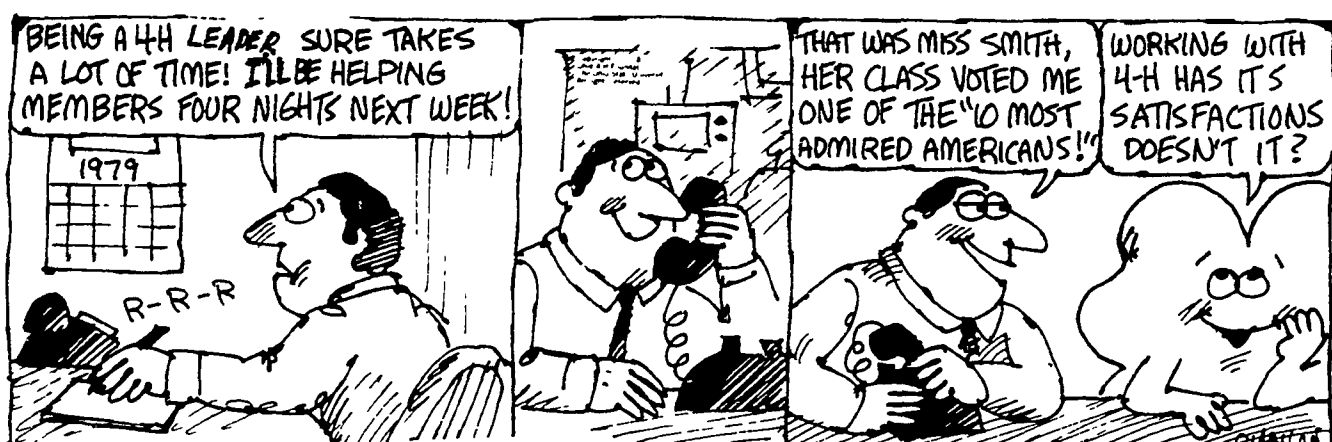
The lamb crop is the big income item from a flock of sheep; if the ewes are not with lamb, the profit "goes out the window." Sheep fed a little extra grain, or turned to a lush grass pasture,

(Turn to Page A27)

NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
Phone 394-6851

CHRIS COYER



Farm Calendar

Today, October 18
Maryland Shorthorn Calf Sale, Frederick Fairground, Frederick, Md.; 12:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 19
Lehigh-Northampton Farm-City open house on several county farms; 1 to 5 p.m.
Monday, October 20
Reading Fair continues through the 25th.
Franklin County Farmer's

Union, 7 p.m.; Lighthouse Restaurant, Rt. 11; Chambersburg.
Honey Show and Baking Contest, 7 p.m.; Dutch Gold Honey, Rotherstown.
Tuesday, October 21
Ephrata Area Young Farmers meet; 7:45; Ephrata Senior High Ag. Department.
Lancaster County Cattle Feeders Tour, leaves
(Turn to Page A27)