

Brief answers to short questions

Sheila's **Shorts**

By Sheila Miller

A Farm, FINALLY Have you ever been

haunted by a comment you made in passing at sometime or another?

Well, it seems I've adopted a ghost because in the past several months I've gotten more mail from Lancaster Farming readers in Brooklyn than anywhere else.

My surprise at the first letter, as you recall I wrote about in an earlier column, has not been diminished every time I see a Brooklyn post mark, I blink (I just had my glasses changed, so it can't be my eyes playing tricks)

This time I received a post card from Paul Jacobs, 2825 W. 12th Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11224. He wrote

Believe it, believe it - I'm another subscriber to Lancaster Farming. I'm very interested in your corn fields, etc., etc.

Can you please get real estate agents to send me listings on a small retirement home in a small rural community? I would hke a small two-bedroom home with about 3 to 5 acres of land — something to keep me busy in my retirement.

Mr. Jacobs, let me recommend you take a look at our classified ads in Section B. On those four or five pages, you'll find one of the largest listings of rural real estate published every week - take it from someone who has scoured those tiny boxes of ads for years

Like anyone else who is looking for a small farm or a large one for that matter,

you'll have to get in touch with someone who is interested in selling a property - either an individual land owner or a broker

Then, based on where you would like to settle down and how much you can afford to spend on your ideal pastoral Shangri-la, you'll get to look at dozens and perhaps hundreds of possibilities

However, take it from one who has learned the lessons of farm-hunting over the past several years, BE SPECIFIC when you describe your dream home to a broker. You'll be saving yourself and the broker a lot

Instead of them showing you a house on a quarteracre lot with four bedrooms smack in the middle of the local speedway, you'll spend your time looking at homes that meet your needs Of course it always seems you find some brokers who are so starved for a sale they try to sell you the latest listing - a 250-acre dairy complex with a massive limestone house (just what you need for retirement)

The main thing to keep in mind is "Don't get discouraged" If you are patient and persistant, you'll find just what you're looking

But then — won't I be losing one of my Brooklyn readers?

After three years of searching, we've finally found our farm Good luck with your endeavors Once you find a place you'll agree with me - it's a thrill that can't be matched.



Secretary defers calling corn reserve

WASHINGTON, D.C -Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland has deferred calling the farmer-owned reserve for corn, using new regulations put in place last Monday.

Bergland said even though

the five-day moving average price has been above the \$3.26 call level for corn for five consecutive days, the farm price for corn fell below the call point last Thursday, December 4, and remained below on Friday, December 3

"Market prices for corn. while strong, have shown some weakness in recent days. I am deferring a call for repayment of corn reserve loans in order to give the market additional time to send a clear signal The

corn in reserve should not be forced onto the market at a time when prices are fluc-

USDA will continue to monitor prices and base reserve decisions upon them

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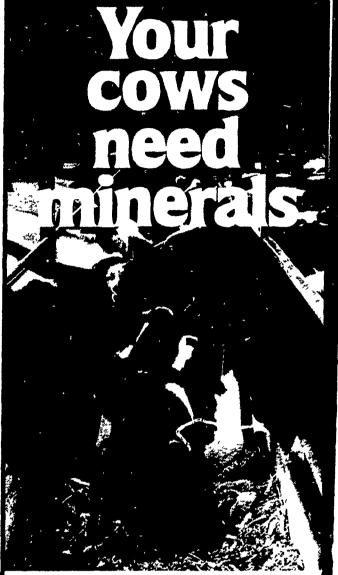
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