

Maas joins Valley Animal Hospital team

PALMYRA — There's a new face among the veterinarians at Valley Animal Hospital these days. Dr. Synthea Maas, DVM has joined the team and will be sharing in the everyday chores of herd health in the area, along with contributing to the column, Ask the VMD.

What might catch a few farmers by surprise is Dr. Maas is a woman vet. She's been practicing veterinary medicine for the past 2½ years.

Rest assured — the doctor is no stranger to the farm. She grew up on a farm in Iowa where her parents raised beef, swine, and field crops.

Dr. Maas received her training in the veterinary field at Iowa State University in Ames, and married an Iowa dairy farmer's son, Gerald Wedemeyer.

Recently, Dr. Maas traveled to Pennsylvania with her husband and three sons, Zachary, 4, Jacob, 2, and Micah, 1. Their destination was Hershey's

Medical Center, where Gerald is in his first year of residency in pathology.

On October 14, Dr. Maas joined Valley Animal Hospital and has been practicing on a part-time basis. She explained she handles the small animal clientele on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, and helps out with the large animal calls on weekends.

When asked what she likes most about being a veterinarian, Dr. Maas stated, "In my experience coming from a farm, I've found that most farmers and veterinarians are gentle people. They're mild mannered and easy to get along with. I've found that held true all through school and now in practice."

She added the thing she dislikes the most about practicing veterinary medicine is destroying animals because the cure is too costly.

"I get turned on trying to save animals. If it weren't for the costs involved in

medicine and tests, I'd try to save them all.

"It tears me up to see older people bringing in their equally old pets and having me resort to euthanasia because they don't have enough funds to pay for the visit, much less more testing."

Dr. Maas pointed out she feels there is too much testing done in human medicine, where in veterinary work there is sometimes not enough done.

She said that many diagnoses done in veterinary medicine are made based on

the history of the animal's condition as described by the farmer and its physical appearance and behavior.

"We do a lot of punting," she said.

Dr. Maas said she welcomes the opportunity to begin practicing medicine in an area she described as having "first rate dairy farms." She noted she prefers to work on swine and dairy cattle, and remarked the dairy cattle she's seen concentrated in Southeast Pennsylvania "may be the best in the nation."—SM



Dr. Synthea Maas, D.V.M., joined the staff at Valley Animal Hospital in October. She will be contributing to the column Ask the VMD — providing answers to questions sent in to Lancaster Farming on herd health and related problems.

Last call for no-till tickets

LANCASTER — No-till corn stood up well under last summer's drought, compared with conventional-tillage corn, reports V. Allan Bandel, extension soils specialist and professor of agronomy at the University of Maryland.

Bandel will be reporting on his 1980 research findings next month during the afternoon session of the seventh annual Mid-Atlantic No-Till Conference. The six-state farmer education meeting is scheduled January 8 at the Host Farm Resort, located five miles east of Lancaster, on U.S. highway 30.

Theme for the 1981 meeting is "No-Tillage Managing for the Future." The all-day event will run from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with the formal program getting under way at 9:30 in the Cabaret Theatre.

Tickets for admission to the meeting and a noon luncheon must be purchased by today. They are available only from county extension offices in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. No tickets will be available at the door.

Bandel is vice-chairman of the planning committee for the conference. The chairman is Donald J. Overdorff of Carlisle, an Extension agricultural agent in Cumberland County, Pa.

Overdorff says he expects a capacity crowd of more than 1000 persons for the all-day event.

As in past years, the meeting is being sponsored by the extension service in each of the participating states. Co-sponsorship and financial support are being provided by 30 related agribusiness firms.

There will be educational and commercial exhibits prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the agribusiness sponsors. The booths will be located in the exhibit hall at Host Farm Resort. Also on display will be a selection of no-till drills for sod-seeding.

Lancaster District plans study of non-point pollution

LANCASTER — The Lancaster County Conservation District may be looking into the county's non-point pollution potential in the near future, stated Tom Johnston, District Administrator.

He explained the District applied for state funds in November which are part of a federal Environmental Protection Agency grant for "208" studies under the Rural Clean Water Program.

Johnston said plans to

study the Conestoga Creek, east of Martindale, along with Indian Run, north of Ephrata, are being analyzed. The District is looking at the possibilities of working cooperatively with two adult farmer teachers from Eastern Lancaster County, Bob Anderson and Don Robinson, he said.

We'll be looking at the type of cropland and the farming practices in a 75 percent sample along the Conestoga, along with the

number of animal units and closeness to streams. We'll be spot sampling Indian Run — taking a 10 to 15 percent sample."

Johnston noted the District is hoping to begin the study sometime in January or February. However, the work cannot start until the District's application has been approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources' Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation.

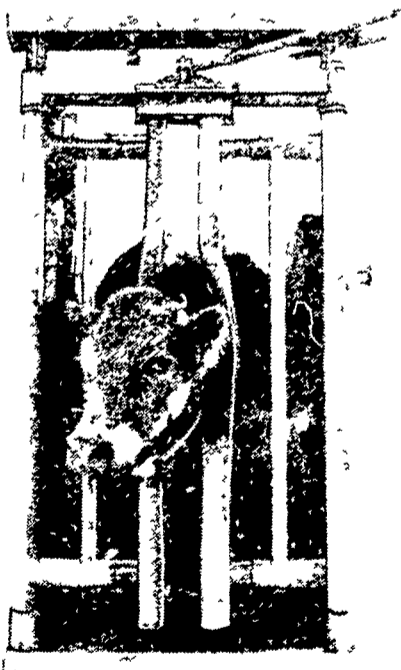
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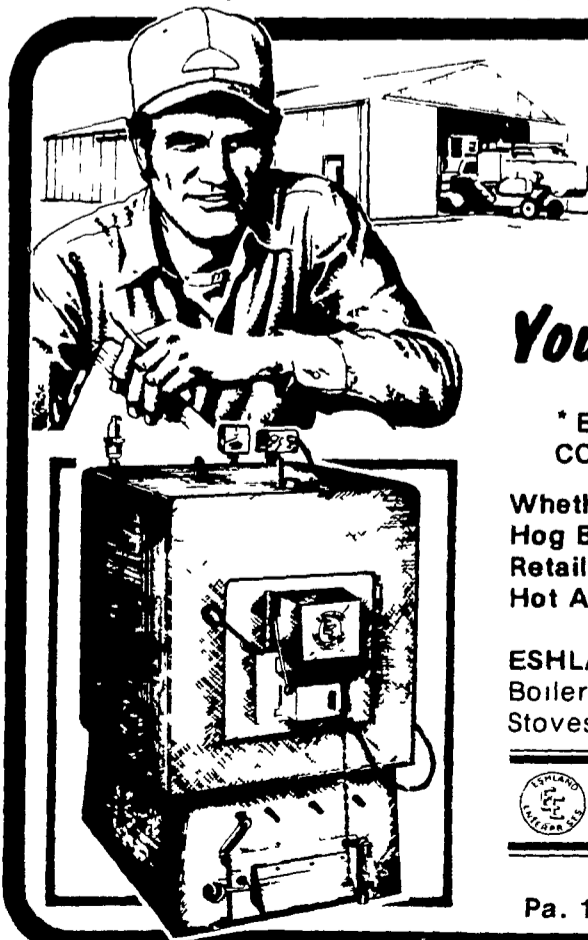


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