

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

Reflections on 1981 Farm Show

As Friday afternoon draws on, reflections from the 1981 Farm Show flash by like the colors in a kaleidoscope.

All things considered, the Show was one of the most successful in recent years.

But through the seven days of exhibiting, Saturday through Friday, a number of problems showed up. We feel some of them could be corrected.

Disqualifications always mean disappointment. This year there seemed to be a larger than usual number of animals who did not meet standards.

At least three steers were disqualified from the junior beef judging because they exceeded the 1350 pound weight limit. Keeping some of the modern crosses below that weight is difficult, especially when an exhibitor wants to put finish on the animal.

The question here is whether the

breeders are exhibiting thrifty animals which reach market weight quickly and economically.

Several junior hog entries were sent back because they lacked pseudorabies blood test certificates. We applaud the judges' decision here. After all, there almost was no hog show because of a pseudorabies scare.

One young woman was eliminated from the beef showmanship competition because she did not show her own beef animal (she would have been the grand champ).

A top Hereford exhibitor was disqualified because the cattle lacked ear tattoos.

All the incidents were unfortunate and should show future exhibitors the need to read the Show rulebook and comply with it. If the rules are felt to be too strict, take action to change them.

Why were the tie-outs for cattle put up next to the railroad track so only one side could be used? Despite this

inefficiency, it was nice to have them closer to the barn, more convenient for the cattlemen.

Sheep and hog exhibitors were at it again.

The fight continues about wool clippings down drains, clogging the outlets, and forcing overflow water into hog pens.

There are just two wash pens for both hogs and sheep. The word's out that the one pen, with an elevated pipe, will ruin any unsuspecting bred gilt who is washed there.

Cherry bombs and cup-popping remain safety hazards. Although the incidence of trouble seems to be decreasing, the Clydesdale show was marred by several loud noises.

There's another safety hazard, too. This one shows up in the ring.

We question how some of the toddlers—and they're hardly more than that—can be expected to survive in the showmanship contests.

It's cutesy to send pre-schoolers

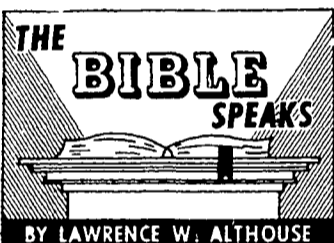
into the ring, and the judge is certain to be impressed with the size contrast between child and animal, but even a modest size hog can sent a 200-pound farmer flying. What chance does a 50 pound child have if blindsided by an uncontrolled animal?

Shouldn't there be a downside age limit on exhibitors in the Open Show ring? In 4-H competition, the limit is nine years.

This brings up the point of young 4-H'ers showing heavyweight steers. Are the parents of these youngsters keeping the 4-H method in mind—learning by doing—when they buy these crossbreeds that will finish out over 1200 pounds for their 60 pound kids?

A child's bad experience with one of these steers (some are a handful for the parents) could ruin the child's interest in raising a baby beef.

Still, the overall impression of Farm Show 1981 was that of a well-run Show, one for the scrapbook.



MAMMON BY A LANDSLIDE

January 18, 1981

Background Scripture: Matthew 8 through 10.
Devotional Reading: Acts 10:34-43.

I write these words just a few days after our national elections. My recollection of

this election campaign is a mental collage of banners, slogans, ecstatic crowds, ubiquitous political commercials, posters, bumper stickers, signs and a seemingly inexhaustible supply of newspaper articles and television reports. According to the experts, this has been the biggest and most expensive campaign ever.

The Plentiful Harvest

I can't help musing over this gigantic expenditure of energy and material wealth to place a single human being into office. The "what ifs" haunt me. What if, that time and space in print and radio/tv had been devoted to

witnessing for Christ? Just once a century, what if...we were to become that excited about the Kingdom of God? What if instead of those interminable political speeches we had given equal time to the words of our Lord? And instead of telling people how to vote, what if we had spent that same time and energy showing people how to live?

Jesus told his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (9:37). Yes, the plentiful harvest is still before us, and the laborers are still all too "few." But must it be that way? Jesus had only twelve

men and an unnumbered group of women to follow him. Between them they had a hundred posters. But today we have the means—means far beyond anything the original disciples could have imagined. If the laborers are "few," it is not a paucity of numbers, but a poverty of commitment and concern. Mammon and God are still campaigning for our souls and we are still voting for Mammon at the polling place of our priorities and commitment.

He Gave Authority

What I envision with my "what ifs" is not an advertising extravaganza or a public relations blitzkrieg

Nor am I calling for political conventionsize rallies for Christ or daily radio/tv interviews with Christian spokesmen. Least of all am I envisioning an avalanche of posters and pamphlets.

What I look for is the same kind of campaign that Jesus conducted with his constituency when he sent out his twelve disciples into the precincts of the people of Israel. With the exception of proclamation, "The Kingdom of heaven is at hand," (10:7), Jesus gave them no speeches, press releases, or party platforms. What he gave them was the authority to perform compassionate acts—authority

over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity." The charge he gives them is no less than precise: "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons."

Although the election is over, the controversy still rages: shall Christians carry their religion into their politics. To me, the answer is not "whether" but how we do it. It is one thing to seek power to make people conform to your own ideas and values and something else to carry out Christ's command to render compassionate deeds in the name of the kingdom.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
Phone 394-6851

TO PREVENT FIRES... The best way to put out a fire is never to allow it to happen; fire prevention and the removal of potential fire hazards is very much in order. I've noticed the larger

number of home and barn fires in recent weeks due to the extremely cold weather. This means that something was not fire-proof, or some practice was done in the wrong way. Space does not permit listing all of the fire hazards, but folks should make a special effort to prevent a fire. The fire extinguisher is a very useful piece of equipment to put out

a small fire, or try to keep the fire under control until the fire engine arrives. All members of the family should know the location of the extinguisher and know exactly how to operate it. Smoking around the barn or near flammable materials should also be banned.

TO EXERCISE THE EWES FLOCK...

Sheep producers are all looking forward to the lambing season; the goal should be the weaning of two lambs per ewe; this would be

a 200 lamb crop in sheep circles. Many shepherds have this goal but few ever achieve it. One of the big management practices is to keep the ewes moving during the cold winter months. This should result in stronger lambs; it will not have any effect on the number of twins that are dropped, but should not only produce stronger lambs, but keep the ewes in a more healthy condition. The feeding of hay out in the exercise lot on snow or frozen ground is a good

practice. Don't allow them to be in the shed or barn days at a time during their gestation period.

TO CHANGE WITH MARKET DEMANDS...

The farm product that is in the greatest demand and one that will bring the most profitable price is the one to produce. This is not always the highest price on the market but the most profitable price. Some cattle feeders try to top the market when they sell their cattle; this might be an ac-

complishment but many times will cost the feeder money to do so. The same thing could hold true in the dairy business; the herd with the highest amount of milk and fat may not have made their owner the most money. Efficient production is the goal and in order to attain that fact, producers should be well acquainted with what the market wants. In the fat cattle market we have noticed that over-fat,

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CHRIS COVER



Farm Calendar

Saturday, January 17
Dairy goat meeting, 9:30-12;
Farm and Home Center.
Chinchilla Fur Producer's
meeting, 7 p.m.; Mon-
gomery County 4-H
Center, Lansdale.
Huntingdon County Holstein
Club annual meeting;
Juniata Valley School,
Alexandria, 7 p.m.
Monday, January 19
Farmer's Union Con-

vention, Holiday Inn,
Grantville, banquet 6:30-
8, continues tomorrow.
Thirteenth annual Sim-
mental Association
Annual meeting, Fair-
mont Hotel, Denver,
Colorado.
Dairy Reproduction
Workshop, 9:30-3, Farm
and Home Center, con-
tinues January 20.
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