

## Farm Calendar

Today, March 21

Pa. State Ayrshire Club, Carlisle.  
Thud Blue Halter Guernsey Calf Sale, followed by 50th Anniversary Sale, 12.30 p.m., Guernsey Sales Pavilion.  
Bucks County Unit of NFO annual dinner, 7 p.m., Plumsteadville Fire House.

Monday, March 23

Home vegetable gardening, 7.30 p.m., Lancaster Farm & Home Center.

Red Lion Young Farmer cattle meeting, 8 p.m., Red Lion Vo-Ag Dept.

Potter County Holstein Directors 8 p.m., Uylsses Bank, Uylsses.

Chickies Creek Watershed annual meeting, 7.30 p.m., Manheim Community Bldg 15 E. High St

DHIA Workshop, 1 p.m., Cumberland County Extension Bldg, Carlisle

DHIA Workshop, 7.30 p.m., Shippensburg Jr High School Vo-Ag Dept

Tuesday, March 24

Thomasville 4-H Club, 7:30 p.m., York County 4-H Center, program by foreign exchange student.

Wednesday, March 25

Penn State Milking School, continues tomorrow.

Atlantic Breeders Co-op meeting, 10 a.m., Quality Inn, Centerville Rd.

Del swine reproduction meeting, 7 p.m., U of Del. Georgetown Substation.

Thursday, March 26

4th annual Pa. Ag Safety Council meeting, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

York Junior Holstein meeting, 7:30 p.m., York Extension Office.

Pequea Valley FFA Chapter annual banquet

Tulpehocken FFA banquet, high school

## Letters To The Editor

Dear editor:

I've just finished reading your editorial on paying farm hired help. It is easy to see you're a payed employee and not a farm manager.

I am convinced that for every underpaid hired helper there are two over-worked and underpaid farm managers. If you will take the time to read Joyce Bupp's article in the same issue of Lancaster Farming, her view was certainly true to life on the farm.

Farming is not a job it's a way of life. You have to be willing to do the little extras even if the time

clock says it's time to punch out or your won't really be getting paid for it. Certainly if the boss has it like that why do you expect any less from those working under him?

If you feel a man running a \$50,000 machine should be paid according fine! So we pay him \$200 the first day. The second day he breaks a part, call it inexperience, unconcern, bad luck or worn out equipment. The parts still cost a hard, cold \$500. And that's not counting down time and repair labor. May we pass that on to the hired hand too?

This past year it has cost most farmers good money for the pleasure of raising pigs. Does that mean then, that they may start charging their hired help for the pleasure of helping to feed them?

You talk about hired help not staying at the job long as if it were always the boss's fault. I'm sure most bosses know a quite different story. Their might be a few unfair slave drivers, but most farm bosses started at the bottom and hung in there till they worked their way up.

It's hard to find people, willing to work, the way you have to on a farm, to make a go of it. Blame it on parents for over working the child as it was growing up, if you can. I'd be more willing to believe it's the result of the child being spoiled.

Farmers just aren't being paid enough so they can operate the same way most other Americans do. It's because city people don't

know how to go down on the farm and buy a steer. Have it butchered and put it into their own freezer. After all that takes a lot of money. But they'll probably pay four times that week by week over the next year. There are just too many middle men taking home a paycheck between the farmer and consumer.

Now I don't want to say that it's impossible to find good hired help, because we've done it several times. But if a man knows how to be efficient and conscientious on the boss's time and money, certainly he can run his own household efficiently too. He'll probably have a wife that works with him.

In about two years he'll be ready to venture out on his own. Then, unless your a real hard-hearted boss you'll feel obligated to help him. Lend him your tractor and plow in the spring. You remember your own first year and how hard it was to get started without help. Then lend him your harvester in the fall. He knows how to run it.

You spend two years teaching him. And paid him for the pleasure.

If you want to be a vet you go to school several years, pay several thousand to the college. You do the same for a lot of other jobs too.

If you want to be a farmer you step out of high school, find a farmer that's got half a million or more tied up in land, cattle &

equipment and get a position as general manager #2.

How comes hasn't anybody called the college professors slave drivers? Or why have I never seen the average wages earned by vets when they're in training?

It sure is a shame that there isn't one farm manager in this area with enough of time to write a weekly column. I'm sure most farmers would enjoy that as much as farm wives enjoy Joyce Bupp.

The Boss's Wife  
New unstown

Dear Editor:

I am a retired farmer of 62 years of age. So I have plenty of time on my hands and I go around and visit quite a few farms.

The point I am trying to make is I love a tall cool glass of milk. So now here is the kicker.

I have 10 grandchildren who will not touch a glass of milk for love or money.

The reason? They have seen these farms & how dirty they are with manure, and I don't blame them. Some of these farms have not been inspected for a year.

It seems as long as they have a stainless steel tank in the milk house, it is all that is required.

Please don't believe me, but put a reporter on one of the pick-up trailers and smell for yourself.

Friend of the Farmer,  
Reading



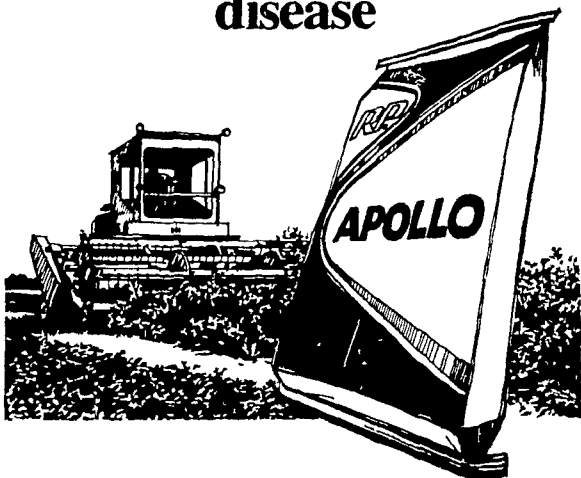
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