Brief answers to short questions

Sheila's **Shorts**

By Sheila Miller



Equal time

A letter which was printed in my last week's column generated a number of comments concerning the Leesport Auction.

I received this signed letter from Irvin W. Shirk, R1 Mertztown: He writes.

I am writing in response to the anonymous letter printed in your column on March 28.

For one thing, the writer claims the auction ring wasn't cleaned for several weeks. That is incorrect, as my brother can verify because he cleans it out every week. (He is an employee). What the writer probably saw was fresh saw dust watered down to cimmate dust.

As for the fact that farmers buy heifer calves to take home, the calves are the first animals through the ring each Wednesday, followed by sheep and goats after which come feeder pigs. So, there are no "cripple or 90 percent dead" animals sold before calves or pigs being taken home.

Further more, a steer with his rectum hanging out or hogs with ruptures are probably no more carriers of viral diseases than are

healthy looking animals.

i am sure most any tarmer realizes there is a risk in buying animals from auctions to some extent and will isolate such animals for a period of time.

My own opinion of Leesport Market and Auction is it is one of the finest auction barns around.

And Leroy Weist, one of the owners and manager of the Leesport Auction stated

'We've run this auction barn for the past 33 years. If we didn't run it right, we wouldn't be here."

Weist went on to explain the auction voluntarily employs a private veterinarian to inspect the animals going through the barn He added, "There is some scrap livestock, but they are tagged and put in an isolation pen."

Dr Charles Baker, vetermarian tor the Lansdale office of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry, confirmed there is a licensed disease control technician inspecting the Wednesday auction

"As at any other auction, all sick animals that are brought in are sold for slaughter under permit -

they wear red tags and are not sold through the ring. All quarantmed animals that are brought into the auction are branded and sold strictly for slaughter,"he said

Baker also pointed out there are tew calves sold for breeding purposes at Leesport Auction, except during private sales So, he said no inspector checks health papers at the Wednesday auction since the calves are mostly weekold bull calt vealers.

And, he concluded, the dairy cows that enter the Wednesday sale ring are on their way to be cutters and canners



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Packaging a Better You was presented by Pat Batts of the Farm Bureau Federation He told the 80 State and County Committee

public relations is problem solving through communications.

He presented a RACE tormula which stands for Research, -Action, Communications, Evaluation He told how using these four steps could enable each of us to tell ag s story better

He outlined six important points to remember in Packaging a Better You',

1 Have a positive mental attitude.

2 Be prepared (be informed and know your tacts),

3 All of you communicate (remember that not just your eyes and voice communicate, but all of you Present a good image),

4 Be concise, keep it short and to the point,

5 Be interesting,

5 Be in control

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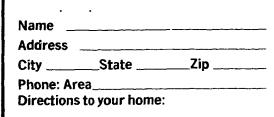
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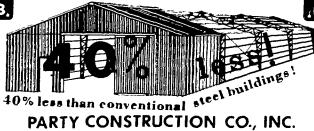
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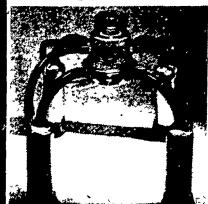
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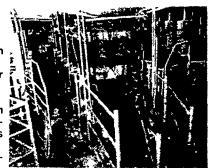
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