

OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

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planning to use a questionably "safe" dump in the heart of the nation's number one agricultural (non-irrigated) area. A dump in a county that is now the second fastest growing county in population in the state. A dump in a geological area that poses a threat to underground water for thousands of local people and is at the headwaters of a series of streams that meander through this populous, beautiful county, into the Conestoga and Brandywine and find their ways to major rivers feeding into the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays.

Naturally, IU will defend the safety of their dump; they will refer to water contamination fears as unfounded, and proceed to spend whatever money is necessary to overturn local ordinances to get what they want.

For those who feel the problem is not one to worry about because of living more than a few miles from the dump site, here are a few things to keep in mind.

Conrail has recently been working to upgrade the "almost abandoned" railroad track feeding the Narvon Mine. The track runs from Lancaster, through the heart of the county, to Navon Mine. Experiments were conducted several years ago in which trash trucks were hauled on rail cars from Philadelphia to the Lancaster Landfill. They used that same track.

If the Narvon Mine site is approved, you can expect hazardous waste from virtually anywhere in the nation to find its way here. If there is a problem with one dump being closed down, the waste that went there will have to go somewhere else. We'll get some of it.

IU is a big corporation, not the kind of company one would think is interested in little independent water companies...like Wrightsville Water Company, Octoraro Water Company in Parkesburg, Mechanicsburg Water Company, Stewartstown Water Company, Wilmington Suburban Water Company and Dauphin Consolidated Water Company to mention a few. Guess who owns them? That's right, IU.

Is water becoming an increasingly valuable commodity? You bet it is, and it will become more valuable in the future. Seems strange, doesn't it, that the same company planning an operation that might contaminate our water supply is now buying up the water companies that surround us? Why?

IU operates its own transportation organizations. Ryder Trucks, which move freely about because we all are used to seeing them used by friends and neighbors for routine rental hauling jobs, is a division of IU. Imagine the freedom with which materials can be transported in such innocuous looking trucks.

The P.I.E. Transportation, another division of IU is equipped with an arsenal of transportation equipment that can haul anything, anywhere, anytime. How convenient when the need arises to bring waste from long distances.

IU even owns its own ocean shipping lines. We could have internationally generated waste seeping into our ground water supply in a few years.

Certainly, IU will reject such notions as foolish, emotional and unfounded. And they may be. But they are possibilities, based on the facts as we know them today.

They pose questions that must be asked. They beg for restrictions to be imposed if the IU big money influence wins out over the hard-working people who oppose them.

This is not an isolated fight for a handful of people in a quiet farming area. It is a fight for all of Lancaster County, a fight that goes beyond our borders.

There are better locations for dumps away from populated areas, locations where people are moving away instead of moving in, where important underground water supplies are not as vulnerable, where important agricultural land will not be threatened.

Once the dump is a reality, it is too late. The time to stop it is now. Questions must be asked now. Answers must come now. You must get involved now. Tomorrow is too late.

William C. Moyer, Chairman
Red Rose Alliance

Greener pastures?

Pasture grasses and sheep. Reference is made to Lancaster Farming of 11 April, page A22, Type of Pasture Affects Ewe Conception, and the 6 June issue, page D11, Plants for Sheep Pastures.

Paul Lynch's comments based on the Beltsville studies states that "ewes eating tall fescue took two to three times longer to conceive than those eating orchardgrass..."

The second article, based on information gleaned from Wm. Stringer, asst. professor of Crop Management at Penn State, cautions that it is essential to access your goals before designing a pasture system for any ruminant. The article goes on to reflect that tall fescue and reed canary grass are more narrowly suited for sheep pasture systems.

One would gather from reading the second article that to pasture with tall fescue would be a good bet particularly since it is hardy, grazes well and that lambs gain rapidly on such pasture.

What to do? To fescue or not to fescue? Maybe another opinion in another sheep grass article would lend weight one way or another. Confusing...isn't it? It's time to break out and dust off the Urim and Thummim!

Dwane Yoder, Carlisle, Pa.

Dairy Youth

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demonstrated setting feet and positioning to accentuate a heifer and told the group to be aware of the judge, animal and other participants while in the ring.

Guernsey breeder John Myers trimmed hooves on a heifer while the workshop participants listened. Myers admitted that hoof trimming is an area that needs improvement at most shows.

By trimming three weeks before a show, hooves have a chance to heal and the trimmer can re-trim two weeks later, if necessary.

The attentive youngsters crowded around Peter Witmer as he listed essential tack for shows.

"If you're ill-prepared you end up borrowing from your neighbors," he said. In addition to tack for the animals, Witmer included a number of items that would provide comfort for hard-working humans, as well.

In a shaded corner at the Pavilion grounds, Jeff Staner demonstrated the art of clipping a heifer.

"Start on the tail and hind legs and work forward," he explained. A proper clip, he said, should accent the high points and bring

out dairy character.

The warm summer morning ended and the group broke for lunch. Meanwhile, a few dozen unbroken, unclipped, unwashed locally donated heifers patiently waited.

Following lunch, the calves met their respective showmen — and then the fun started. Suddenly the clean clothes the youths arrived in began to show signs of wear and tear. The event resembled a calf scramble as calves ran, bucked and sometimes laid in the alley.

Young people tugged, pushed, bribed and occasionally chased their heifers. But they had help — and plenty of it. County agent Glenn Shirk, workshop demonstrators, 4-H leaders and parents offered advice and encouragement when needed.

The education didn't stop with the young, either.

"I'm learning more than the kids are," said Fran Bushong, whose son, Matt participated.

"It's great practice and kids learn to help each other." Bushong added.

Eventually clippers stopped humming and the last heifer left the wash rack as the group headed for the pavilion where 35 pizzas, gallons of milk and ice cream provided well-earned nourishment before the show.

It was then the metamorphosis occurred. After dinner, 55 tired but well-scrubbed boys and girls now attired all in white led fancy, quieter heifers to the show ring where Judge Thomas Dum III awaited.

Glenn Shirk, who worked hard to help prepare the workshop, sat back and enjoyed the results.

"The reward I get from this is to see the determination of kids starting with unruly heifers and their persistence to win over the heifers" Shirk said.

"They have the confidence that they can do what they want if they have a mind to it," he concluded.

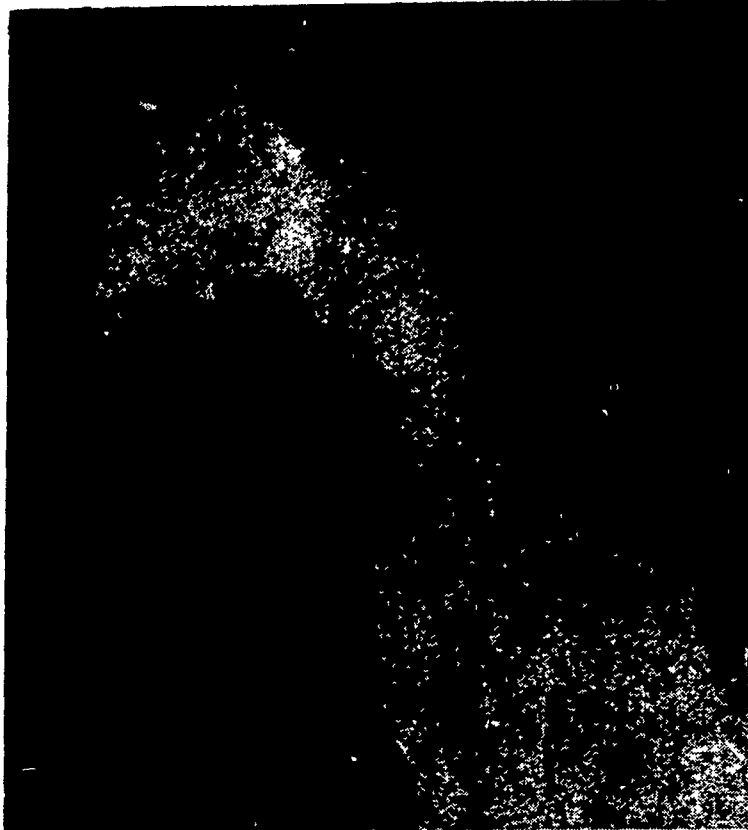


Dela. Fair features dairy goat show

NEWARK, Dela. — The Delaware State Fair in Harrington will feature a dairy goat show on Friday, July 31, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The show, to be held in cooperation with the Delaware Dairy Goat Association and the Nubians, Alpines, Saenens, LaManchas, Toggenburgs and recorded grades will be judged, in eight age classes ranging from under four months to five years

and over. There will be no buck classes. The show will include a Junior Fitting and Showmanship competition.

Deadline for entries is July 1. For further information and entry blanks write to Mary R. Smith, show secretary, at R1, Box 188, Townsend, Delaware 19734, or call 302-653-7132. A fee of \$1 per animal must accompany each entry.



Goats will be an added feature of the Delaware State Fair to be held next month.

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Treadle Sewing Machine, cook stove, china closet, oak bed, pump trough, western saddle.
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SATURDAY, JUNE 27
9:00 A.M.

Liquidation of all new inventory at the Agway Supply Center in Avondale, Pa. 18 miles Southeast of Gap, Pa. along Rt. 41.

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