



Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor

Showing isn't worth it?

Have your ears been ringing lately? What you may have been hearing are the murmurs from the masses these days — whispering whether or not the public needs or wants a Keystone International Livestock Exposition.

Although these little ripples may not be too disconcerting at the present time, if enough non-farm people jump onto the idea, legislative support for not only KILE but other farm shows in Pennsylvania could be wiped out.

The main argument being voiced by the non-farm undercurrents is that the public has shown it doesn't want to spend any tax dollars on KILE. People don't come out in droves to see the parade of pigs, cattle, horses, and sheep like they do at Farm Show time. It's even being said that if the show is strictly for the farmers — then let them pay for it.

Whether they realize it or not, the public needs shows like KILE and the All-American Dairy Show. Why? Because shows of this caliber bring in out-of-state exhibitors to look at and buy Pennsylvania livestock — a source of taxable income.

Shows also pit breeder against breeder, ranking the quality of livestock in the showing, and ultimately giving the producer a yardstick by which to measure improvement in a breeding program. Eventually the average citizen will benefit from all this grooming and glitter through better pork cuts, beef, and lamb (horses are still for pleasure not pot roasts, at least under U.S. standards).

Without KILE and the All-American, Pennsylvania livestock producers would have only the January Farm Show for competition in a large-scale show, and Farm Show's limited to only Pennsylvania entries. To see how their livestock would stack up against other animals around the country, Pennsylvanians would have to spend more money to take their 'prize-winners' out of state — lost revenue for the Keystone state.

Many people believe that the livestock producers contribute nothing to KILE and that the \$75,000 allocated by the state legislature through the Department of Agriculture runs the whole show. Not true. The working budget of this year's KILE rang in at a \$265,000 total. The difference between those two figures is made up by advertising, premium list sales, booth space, entry fees, and carcass steer

sales by the Pennsylvania Livestock Association and other groups.

The All-American comes in slightly under KILE with a working budget of \$150,000 and a legislative contribution of \$60,000.

What would happen if suddenly the state legislature was lobbied to drop ag show fundings and allocations were cut completely for KILE and the All-American? Chances are the shows would manage to hobble through at least another year — but that struggle would probably finish them.

Like everything else, show budgets are hit with inflation and soaring prices. Premiums need to be raised in order to continue to attract exhibitors and make it worthwhile to spend hundreds of dollars on livestock insurance, shots, transportation, food, lodging, and everything else it takes to survive on the show road.

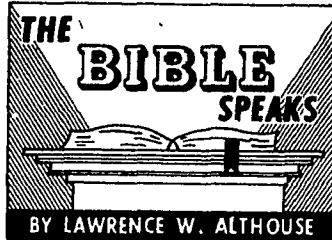
Next year's KILE is tentatively set for November 5-10, pushed back from the earlier-in-the-year scheduling of the past two years due to the "tightness of the Farm Show calendar." This time frame will line up more closely with the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky, rather than the Eastern National at Timonium and the Virginia State Fair.

Next year school children from around the Harrisburg area will have an extra day or so to pet and peek at the hundreds of farm animals that fill the Farm Show Complex during KILE. These 1,500 to 2,000 urban students who take a tour through the barns, some who have never seen a pig or cow before, leave the livestock show with a new understanding or at least a curiosity about these animals and the farming way of life.

And what about those 4-H and FFA students who come to the All-American and KILE to participate in judging contests? Where else could they travel for such a short distance and have assembled around them an equally top-notch group of animals for their evaluation?

Yes, we still need livestock shows in Pennsylvania even if we can't draw the crowds that stream into those fabulous shows out West. Promoting our livestock and dairy industries, two of our Commonwealth's most important revenue resources, is well worth the investment for all Pennsylvanians.

Peepin' at the farm picture



OUR OWN SOUR GRAPES
October 11, 1981

Background Scriptures:
Jeremiah 30 through 31.
Devotional Reading:
John 6:41-51.

Stop and think for a moment—maybe it won't take you very long with this question: "Who most of all is responsible for the mess we're in today?"

What "mess"? Just pick up your daily newspaper and there are seemingly endless possibilities. You can probably tick them off without any prompting at all. Your list won't be exactly the same as mine, but there will be a lot of similarities, I'm sure. Nor will all of us ever agree on who are the culprits. For some of us, it's the ultra-rightists in the world; for others, it's the leftists and "pinkos." Others see Big Business as the bogeyman, while others point the finger at Big Labor. The list of villains is almost as long as the catalogue of messes we attribute to them, but usually each of us has a favorite culprit: "Everything would be a lot better in this world (community, business, nation, etc.) if we could do something about the (you fill-in the blank).

THE CHILDREN'S TEETH ON EDGE

The prophet Jeremiah was aware of this scapegoating tendency in human nature and he recalled an old saying:

"The fathers have eaten sour

grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." (31:29).

We still feel that way today, don't we; someone else, some villain, has done something evil and we are the ones who are made to pay for it. But Jeremiah knew that old saying to be self-deception and the time had come for the people of Israel to stop pushing the blame on someone else for the messes in which they found themselves: "But every man shall die for his own sin; each man who eats sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge" (30:30). It in our family, our job, our community, our nation, our world we are having to eat sour grapes, they are OUR sour grapes. Yes, the Communists are godless and the ultra-rightists are fascists; yes, Big Business may be ruthless and Big Labor may be corrupt; the Democrats are generous with other people's money and the Republicans are generous with nothing—but if the world is not what God created it to be we are the ones who are responsible. Get rid of all those villains today and the world will still be messed-up tomorrow.

THEY SHALL ALL KNOW ME

The key to our situation or situations is not to be found in our parties, our ideologies, our institutions, or even our leaders. The key is in the nature of humanity. If you and I could make a list and get God to get rid of all those sinners right now, we would not have gotten rid of sin, for we carry that within us.

But to recognize our own sour grapes is not to ordain despair, but hope. God still promises us in this imperfect world: "I will forgive their iniquity and I will remember their sin no more" (30:34). Because he is God and despite the fact that we are human, God can still counsel hope; the day will come when "They shall all know me, from the least to the greatest," says the Lord.

OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

Clear water?

I am writing to clarify some mis-statements, if not in fact false statements, in the October 3, 1981 editorial, "Who needs a water bill?"

The editorial states, "HB 1483 calls for monitoring the con-

sumption of volume users to insure they don't drain and strain the short supply."

That is not a true statement. HB 1483 states, Page 10 line 30, "The State Water Plan shall include: (1) A complete inventory of the water resources of this Commonwealth

(Turn to Page A12)

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent
Phone 717-394-6851



To Utilize Corn Fodder

Corn growers who are not making the crop into silage might consider the making of corn stalks into bedding material. The market value of all livestock bedding is quite high, and can be used on the farm or sold to others. After the corn is picked and the stalks dry, the corn can be shredded and baled.

This material makes very good bedding for box stalls and feed lot pens; the fodder absorbs water rapidly and when shredded gives less trouble in mechanical handling. When used on the farm as bedding, it can still be returned to the soil as added organic matter.

To Keep Pigs Warm

The extremely cold weather the

past three winters has resulted in high pig losses in many feed lots. Most farrowing operations have supplemental heat in the building to keep the baby pigs warm. However, when they are sold to the fattening operation, they often do not have warm enough quarters.

We urge that feeders be sure the pigs are comfortable; when they pile up in cold weather, they are too cold. Some of the things that can be done to keep them warm is to insulate sidewalls, use solid partitions and use hovers over their sleeping quarters.

Cold pigs mean respiratory and digestive troubles. When they are warm enough they will spread out in the sleeping area. Check the temperature down at floor level,

not at man-high level.

To Salute 4-H

National 4-H Week runs through this week - October 4 through 10. I wish to commend the over 3,000 4-H members, volunteer leaders and professional youth workers for their accomplishments and service to Lancaster County.

Through 4-H projects and activities, youth from all social and economic backgrounds, both rural and urban, demonstrate that they can make a difference in food production, conservation of our national resources, improve economic understanding, and in the formulation of future career decisions. As a result of the fine exchange programs, 4-H also

(Turn to Page A12)

HAY HAWS



"You asked for a larger premium check and you got it. Now what's the complaint, Hooper?"