



Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor

Don't miss the Ag Arena sale

Want to go to an historic sale?

If you do, then be at the Ag Arena Sale next Friday at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. There's sure to be lots of excitement and something for everyone to bid on as over 200 head of top dairy and beef cattle, swine, and sheep cross the auction block in this fund-raising event.

When Lot Number 1 of the Dairy Cattle lineup enters the sale ring, all eyes will turn to Pennsylvania's Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell who went on record this summer saying he'll open the bids on this Paclamar Astronaut daughter at \$10,000.

This 4-year-old Holstein is being consigned by Obie Snider, Singing Brook Farms, Imber. She will be joined in the sales ring by more than 100 other top-pedigreed Black and Whites whose owners have agreed to donate at least 50 percent of the sale price to the Penn State Ag Arena Building Fund.

What a Christmas present this will be for the students and faculty at Penn State — gift wrapped with generous, sincere concern by farmers from Pennsylvania and surrounding states. Once the final gavel of the sale has fallen on the last consignment, Penn State's Ag Arena hopefully will be close to its \$900,000 construction-cost mark.

All the animals will be there next Friday, ready and waiting to be trucked to their new homes. But what lies between the sale event and the successful attainment of the Penn State goal are the buyers.

As I leaf through the sale catalogs, looking at pedigrees and pictures, I feel like a kid again, flipping through the pages of the mail-order Christmas wish-book. But instead of toys and dolls to dream of, this time it's livestock.

Which one would I choose, how many would I like . . . as always, the real question is — what's the price tag?

According to sale managers Dennis Grumbine, swine, Robert Coleman, beef cattle, Tom Calvert, sheep, and Bill Nichol, dairy cattle, this sale will be offering

something to fit "everybody's pocketbook."

And you don't have to be a Penn Stater to get a buyer's number, either. As a matter of fact, if it's anything like the list of consignors, the buyer's list could put Penn State alumni to shame.

Well, be that as it may, won't it be great once all the plans are laid in place and the pillars begin to shape the arena? Consignors and buyers will know that their support has provided the financial foundation for a learning center that will help in forming the futures of tomorrow's Penn State ag students.

No longer will Block and Bridle students have to shuffle straw bales into make-shift show rings in the beef and sheep center's latest addition — the metal shed. This structure has served as a shelter for shivering students and parents participating in the inevitably-frigid livestock show ever since Joe Paterno's 'stars' kicked Ag Hill's Little International exhibitors out of the Ice Pavillion.

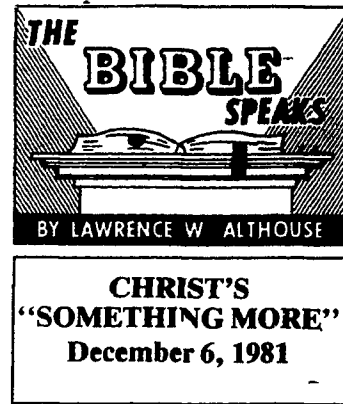
And Dairy Expo showmen won't have to be treading on the heels of the dairy cows in front of them any longer — the new Ag Arena will cure the tight-squeeze malady long experienced in the dairy barn pavillion.

Even though the Penn State students and professors will enjoy the facility for shows and lectures throughout the year, the Ag Arena will also provide a centrally-located site for livestock and dairy events and sales sponsored by off-campus groups.

Take it from this Ag Hill alumni — the Ag Arena will meet a long-overdue need for everyone affiliated with Pennsylvania agriculture.

So bring your checkbook and support this fund-raising endeavor. Don't forget — dairy cattle start selling at 11 a.m., with the beef sale beginning at noon. Then, after an afternoon break and 'snack' to keep the buyers appetites satiated, the swine sale gets rolling at 7 p.m. with sheep selling at 7:30 p.m.

Come out and enjoy the livestock, the people and the food. See you at the sale.



Background Scripture:
Matthew 14:28-33; Mark 1:1-11; 9:2-8.

Devotional Reading:
1 Corinthians 1:20-31

At one time it was fashionable in some circles to regard Jesus as nothing more than a fictional or mythical character. Apart from the Bible itself, there is no proof that such a man actually lived and died in the first century A.D.

Nevertheless, today, if I can in any way judge from what I see, hear and read, there doesn't seem to be much doubt among most people that Jesus was an actual historical figure. The conflict and disagreement today seems much more to be over the question: Who was this man? or, depending upon your approach, Who is this Christ? The Son of God.

Christians often attempt to answer either or both of these questions by listing one or more of his titles, Jesus, we say, is the Christ, the Messiah, the Lord, our Saviour, the Incarnate Word of God, the Master, and the Son of God. (Although we do not usually use this title, we are aware that the Gospels, particularly Mark, also calls him the Son of man at times.)

But titles are not answers by themselves. For when we say that Jesus is the Son of God, what are we saying?

In Mark, we find that Jesus'

divine "sonship" was that Gospel's main theme. He begins his gospel proclaiming, "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (1:1). At Mark's recounting of the the baptism of Jesus, there is "a voice from heaven, 'Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased'" (1:11). And on the Mount of Transfiguration, there is another voice, saying of Jesus, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him" (9:7). What is Mark trying to say to us about Jesus?

In Daniel 3:25 King Nebuchadnezzar saw in the fiery furnace, besides, Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego a fourth person whose appearance was that of a "son of the gods," indicating that there is something divine about him. In the books of Job and Psalms the term "sons of God" indicates beings who are divine but subordinate to God. In other Old Testament sources, to be God's "son" or "sons" implies simply a special relationship with God (the nation of Israel, Exodus 4:22,23; the Davidic king, Psalms 89:26,27; etc.)

The Divine Become Human

Mark, however, implies something more when he uses this term. This "something more" was a special, filial relationship between Jesus and God ("Father" being the term Jesus used most in referring to God.) It also indicated that the disciples realized that, in dealing with this man Jesus, in some way virtually indefinable they were dealing with God Himself. As John would later put it, they found that the Word had become flesh in Jesus, the divine expressed in human terms.

The title "Son of God" is impossible to precisely define, but it does not matter that we cannot define it, so long as we are able to experience for ourselves the "something more" of Jesus, the Son of God.

OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

The grass is greener

I am writing this letter in response to the article "What price is a conservation practice?" by Herbert L. Brodie, Extension Ag Engineer for the University of Maryland. (November 21, 1981 issue, B39)

There's no doubt that soil conservation is a pressing problem in this country, even though it is not receiving priority right now in national policy. The question is, how can we accomplish this goal?

Articles such as this one tend to make two points. First, they attempt to make farmers feel guilty about letting the dirt wash down

the hill. Second, they try to prove that soil conservation "pays."

Generally, farmers understand what is involved much better than the average apartment dweller. They would grow forages, rotate crops and so on if they could afford to. But the trouble is, soil conservation does not really pay in today's economy.

Experienced farmers are very sensitive to what pays. To prove that it pays, you have to assume that the farmer can invest savings, and that his only alternative is a 5 percent savings account.

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NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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To Plan Work

Schedules in Layer Houses

If you are planning to work with your layers, such as applying a miticide to control lice or mites or do any noisy repairs to the feeders, fans, or waterers - this work should be done in the afternoon. The reason for this is - it's after the hen has laid her egg for the day, and she is a lot less susceptible to injury and damage to the future eggs. Your everyday chores won't upset them because they are accustomed to them, but these unusual conditions can upset their regular cycle.

Just a word on the number of birds per cage. It may seem like a good idea to add one extra bird per cage, but this could lower your hen-house production. There are over 20 cage density experiments and they all show a lowered production per hen when you add that extra hen. Keep in mind that very small differences in production can result in large economic differences over time in large flocks. With an oversupply of eggs, we really don't need that extra bird anyway.

To Renew Private Applicator License

Farmers are reminded that they now have a "second chance" to take update training and qualify for the renewal of their private applicators license to apply restricted use pesticides in 1982, says Arnold G. Lueck, County Agent.

Most private applicators are farmers. Many had their licenses expire last September 30. This simply means these license/permits have to be renewed soon. Fortunately, the Bureau of Plant Industry officials of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture have extended the time to get this renewal completed to March, 1982.

The best way to obtain update training is to attend some winter meeting sponsored by Penn State Extension or agribusiness firm, where pesticide use is discussed or explained. Attendance at such a meeting will qualify to obtain "The Pesticide Applicator Update Training Certificate" slip of paper which must be sent in to get a new license.

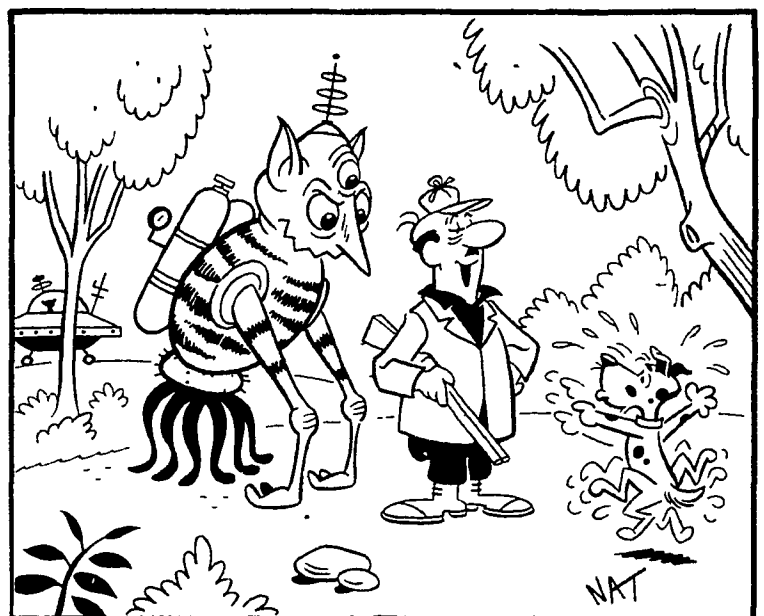
We strongly urge farmers to check their wallet-sized license card to see if they are currently eligible to buy and use restricted insecticides, herbicides and fungicides. If there is an expired date on the card, get to a winter meeting in the next three months and re-qualify yourself.

To Observe Withdrawal Time

The use of drugs and antibiotics are needed in many cases with livestock and dairy production. Their use is quite common in many farm operations. However, the misuse of these materials is where trouble can start. When these items are administered to animals, the owner should read the label for directions relating to withdrawal period for milk cows, or time between treatment and slaughter for meat animals. This is only good common sense that these regulations should be followed. To short-cut the period of time is only jeopardizing the product and the entire farming business. Don't take chances with our valuable food products. Also, be sure to keep

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HAY HAWS



"OK, I give up. What has six legs, three eyes and is striped?"