

## On Being A Farm Wife

By Joyce Bupp

From across the state, farmers will descend on Harrisburg this week to eyeball the latest industry innovations at the Farm Show.

It might behoove all us livestock farmers to take a few moments from the Farm Show to slip on over to the Capitol building for a chit-chat with out state senators.

There's a bill up for a vote this month that could dictate the way we raise our meats, change some methods of keeping pets, and ultimately affect our grocery budgets.

It's traveling the legislative maze under the guise of a cruelty to animals bill, but the basic philosophic movement behind S.B. 1208 is supplied by the animal welfarists and the vegetarians. They'd like to change the way American public eats meat, making us feel 'guilty about munching finger-lickin' chicken and Big Macs, and switching to

beanburgers or trench-fried totu, instead.

Some of the goodies this legislation proposes include:

— setting a time-limit per day and week on the number of hours you can work a horse. If our Amish friends need an extra hour of horsepower to beat a storm in the hay crop, guess they're out of luck;

— demand shelter for every animal at all times. Our cows, who just love to play lazy on hot summer days, rather than get their absolutely necessary exercise by walking out to the shaded pasture, are probably laughing about that one;

— getting caught with any poultry that had combs docked, my friends and you'd automatically be assumed planning a cockfight, an illegal event, I might add. All commercial growers now dock those combs to keep the birds from literally picking each other to

death. (Whatever happens to innocent until proven guilty?)

— setting a 24-hour limit on the length of time between milking of a cow, supposedly to avoid "enhancement of her udder." Milk fever, a fatal body imbalance in fresh cows, is always treated by keeping a cow's udder full for several hours until her chemicals can be balanced. Who'd decide between "enhancement", and keeping an animal from dying?

— show dogs could not have their ears cropped, which has nothing to do with raising meat animals, but would affect countless pet owners; And that's just a few of the proposals.

The point is that there are already humane laws in effect that can handle genuine animal abuse. Livestock farmers care for their herds and flocks in the most humane ways possible not only because they are investments but because most do have genuine concern for the comfort and welfare of those animals.

The biggest clinker in this

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proposed legislation is that the police and humane officers involved in seizing animals for alleged abuse could not be subject to any civil liability for damages

incurred during confiscation.

I think they might be operating a little bit that way in Poland right now.

## Keystone Degree winners

(Continued from Page B32)

During 1981, Beth handled the presidency of both the local chapter and the county organization. She's currently chapter reporter, and has won recognition in diversified livestock, salesmanship, meats judging, and public speaking, an area that's earned her a gold medal at state level.

Also a talented livestock judge, Beth has completed in evaluating beef, sheep and hogs at top contests like the Harrisburg International, and at Eastern competition at Timonium, Maryland, where she's placed fourth.

Bowing to the demands of the hog business, Beth has set aside, at least temporarily, plans for further education. Off in the distant future, she envisions expanding Freysville Pork to include processing and retailing to York area consumers.

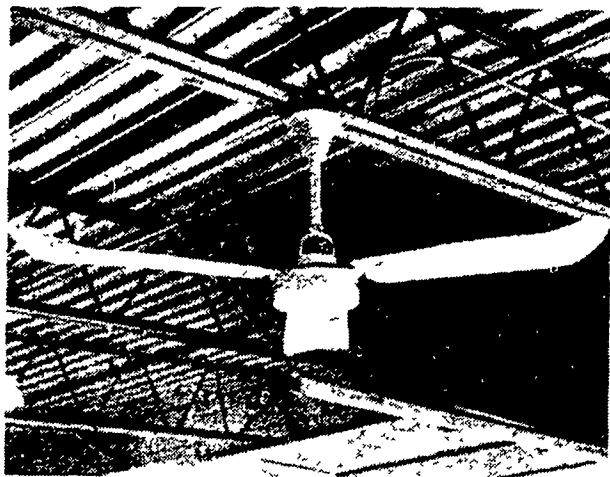
According to John Myers, head vo-ag instructor at Red Lion Area High School, that district's FFA program has been in existence some 30 years, and 129 students are currently involved in the organization. Since the beginning of FFA at Red Lion, Myers estimates that nearly one hundred members have earned their Keystone degrees.

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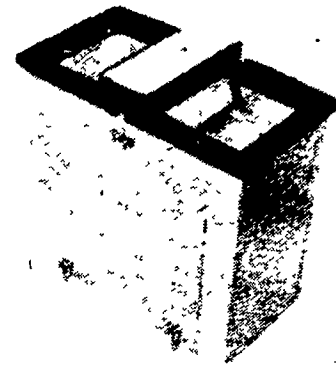
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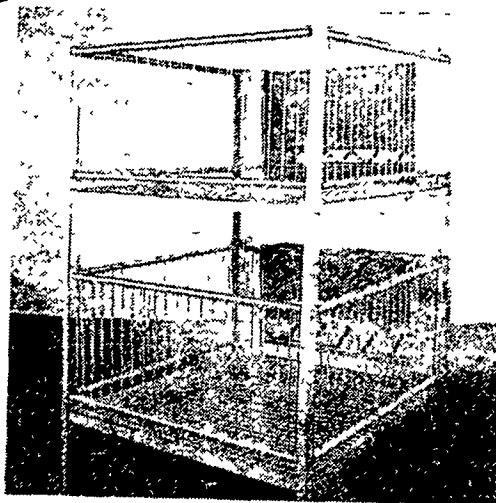
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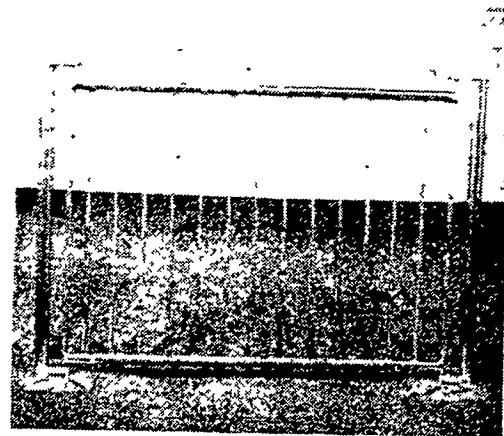
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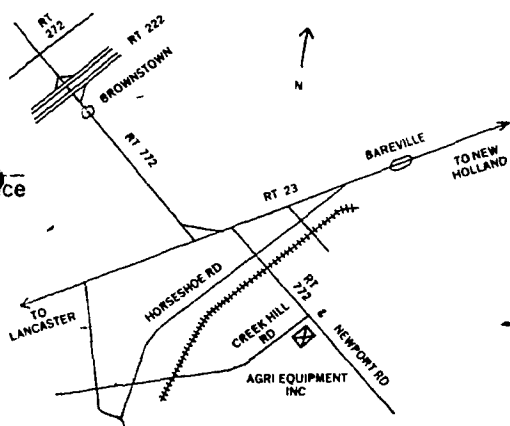
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