

Farm Calendar

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North, 6:30 p.m.
 Cumberland County 4-H Dairy Banquet, South Middletown Fire Hall, Boiling Springs.
 Schuylkill County Crops Clinic, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Goodville Fire Hall, Cressona.
 Potato Growers Winter Meeting, York Centre Presbyterian Church, New Park, 10 a.m.
 Franklin County Conservation District meeting, 9 a.m., Assembly Room of County Administration Bldg., Franklin Farms Lane, Chambersburg.

Harris Motor Inn, Camp Hill.
 Membership meeting of Md. DHIC, Venice Inn, Hagerstown, Md., 10:30 a.m.
 Bradford County Milking School, 10 a.m., Tri-County Electric Co-op, Mansfield.
 Bradford County farm management meeting, Claverack Electric Building, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Cash flow management meeting, 7:30 p.m., Union Grove School, Terre Hill.

Tuesday, March 9
 1982 American Pork Congress, Indianapolis, Ind., continues through Friday.
 Dairy Breeding and Selection Workshop, 7:30 p.m., Kent County Public Library.
 York County Holstein Assn. Spring Barn Meeting, farm of Tom and Theresa Stein, east of York.
 7th Annual N.E. Turfgrass and Grounds Maintenance School, Luzerne Community College, Nanticoke, continues tomorrow.
 Schuylkill County Winter Fruit Growers meeting, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Mahantongo Fire Hall, Pitman.
 Cedar Crest FFA Annual Banquet, 7 p.m., Cedar Crest Middle School.
 Pa. State Council of Farm Organizations Legislative Breakfast, 8-9:30 a.m., Penn

Wednesday, March 10
 Regional Celery Growers meeting, 1:30 p.m., Lancaster Farm and Home Center.
 Home vegetable gardening, 1:30 p.m., Lancaster Farm and Home Center.
 Pa. Farmers Association Washington Legislative Tour, continues tomorrow.

Thursday, March 11
 Garden Spot FFA banquet, 7 p.m., Refton Fire Hall.
 Manor FFA banquet, 6:30 p.m., Penn Manor High School cafeteria.
 Northern Lebanon FFA banquet, 7 p.m., high school cafeteria.
 York County Farm Estate planning meeting, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., 4-H Center, Bair.
 Home vegetable gardening, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Lancaster Farm and Home Center.
 Distric 5 Interstate, noon, Willow

OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

No more whipping boys

The problem agriculture is facing today actually began when President Ford decided to put an embargo on grain shipments to the Soviet Union in 1975. The reason he gave was that we had high food prices in the U.S.

Later, President Carter decided

Valley Restaurant.
 Ag Preservation community forum, dinner at 6 p.m., Robert Rodale speaker at 7:15, Highland Presbyterian Church, 1801 Oregon Pike, Lancaster.

Farm Transfer Arrangements, 7:30 p.m., Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

Cumberland County DHIA Workshop, 1 p.m., Adams Electric Co-op Bldg., 204 W. King St, Shippensburg.

Cumberland County DHIA Workshop, 7:30 p.m., Big Spring High School, Lyceum Room, Newville.

Lebanon Extension annual meeting, 7 p.m., Schaeferstown Fire Hall.

Friday, March 12
 Manheim FFA banquet, 6:45 p.m., Ruhl's Church.

Grassland FFA banquet, 6:30 p.m., Blue Ball Fire Hall.

Bradford County Guernsey-Jersey Breeders, 10 a.m., North Towanda Church.

to use the shipment of food and grains to the Soviet Union as a weapon against their invasion of Afghanistan. Reagan is now using the shipment of these items to Poland as a weapon. So it's small wonder that other countries have decided that if U.S. can use the shipments of those commodities as a club over the head of someone, why can't they do the same thing.

For example, Mainland China has told us if we continue to sell military planes to Taiwan, they will not honor the five year contract they have with us for the purchase of various grains. India has also decided they could use it as a weapon against us by threatening to cut off the purchase of various grains from the United States if we continue to sell weapons to Pakistan.

Can we criticize them when we are doing the same thing? Also, can we fault the Russians when they indicate they would rather not have us as their main source of supply?

Another tragic example is Japan. It is the largest single importer of U.S. agricultural products. The volume of purchases from the U.S. exceeds 7 billion dollars, about 15 percent of the total U.S. agricultural exports. Two-thirds of the dollar volume is grain—primarily corn, soybeans

and wheat.

At Chicago in July of last year, a panel discussion was held between the U.S. and Japanese concerning the future of U.S./Japan agricultural trade. Secretary of Agriculture Block as well as Ambassador Yoshio Okawara of Japan were in attendance.

The most interesting point made by the panel members—from Japan—and in particular Eishi Ueno, Agricultural Attache, was the point about U.S. grain embargo against Russia. The Japanese viewed this quite negatively and openly stated that as a result of this action they, the Japanese, would work to become less dependent on U.S. agricultural commodities.

The point was made emphatically and repeatedly that the percent of Japanese purchase of grain from the U.S. will decline. They did not consider us a reliable source of supply because we use grain shipments as a weapon in cold war diplomacy.

Somehow or another the United States Department of State and the Department of Agriculture must get their act together. Surely, they realize what a tragic blow to the farmers of this country their actions and in some inactions are causing. And the farmer's plight in this mess is only the tip of the iceberg. Obviously, nothing happens until the farmer grows or raises something, be it wheat, corn, soybeans, rice, cattle or hogs.

I don't think most people realize that agriculture is this country's

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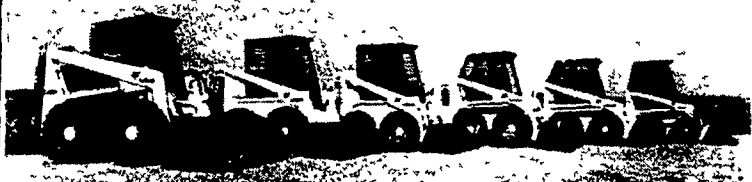
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