

OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

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drowned me out, so he couldn't hear me.

All of a sudden the front of the Moline was parallel to the back wheel of the "payloader". Then the chain broke, snapping the left tie rod. The tractor went across the road, through a wire fence, and I saw the stone wall coming.

I held on to the steering wheel, figuring the wall would stop the tractor. Next thing I knew, I was going through the meadow, toward our neighbor's pond. From the angle I was traveling I could see the road and Ralph. He was standing next to the payloader - waving his arms - yelling. But I could not hear him with two hats and a scarf on.

The next thing I knew, the tractor had broken through the ice and come to a stop mired in the soft mud pond bottom. Somewhere my glasses had fallen off and something had hit me pretty hard in the eye and cheek. I could taste blood as it ran down my face from a cut under my left eye.

By that time Ralph had run the quarter mile from the road to the pond. He looked like he was scared half to death. I was shaking but managed to joke about it. "The tractor needed a good washing," I said. Then I started crying, realizing I could have been killed, leaving my husband and 5 month old daughter to fend for themselves.

I had to wade through broken ice and 3 feet of water to shore. And we went home.

It took a heavy duty towing rig four hours to haul the tractor out and back to the farm.

We didn't talk much about the accident. I was willing to, but Ralph didn't care to be reminded. I learned several months later, when with his mother one day that Ralph's father and grandfather had been killed in a single accident. A tractor "ran away" throwing the grandfather off to die from a skull fracture, then flipping over and crushing his father when Ralph was a little boy.

Since then I've been on a tractor occasionally but I always feel a bit queasy until its back in the shed and the engine is off. We've learned that "saving money" by trying to tow a disabled tractor "costs" money.

The towing company would have charged us \$25 for the towing from the hay barn to the home farm. Instead it cost \$125 plus the cost to repair the tie rod and dry out the engine, a trip to the doctor for cold medicine, an eye examination and new eye glasses.

I feel this may alert others to a "real" drama that is all too common today. Farming is a way of life, and there's risks. But the risks should be through "nature" not man-made.

Therese Todd
Peach Bottom, PA

Better image

As a reader of Lancaster Farming, I found in the Sept. 25 issue of Off the Sounding Board something that I would appreciate if you would also explain — that not only do we need "better image" efforts on the farmer-end, but likewise on the other end.

Taking over my parents farm in 1927 and adding a few small tracts as we went along, we experienced several of these happenings that left a bitter taste.

On one occasion, a macadam road was built along our property where there was a sharp turn in the old roadbed. I was approached by the men in charge that the curve should be made easier with the proposed new road and if I agreed to give up 25 feet of ground this could be done. So we discussed the matter and decided I donate the 25 feet with the promise that they provide decent access to my field the coming growing season when machinery had to be moved across this road under construction. But when the time came, I had many problems and the curve was sloped with only the road traffic in mind.

On another occasion, a road was built; and, with fields on both sides, I was told not to cross with machinery for a period of days. It happened to be spraying season with my water supply on one side and a crop to be sprayed on the other.

I had a problem. So finally I offered to sell them the growing crop and let it be their concern, which of course they were not interested. So I told them if my schedule called for spray, I would go across — which I did. And after the job was done I could show them where they did more damage to the newly built road with their own equipment than I did with mine.

On another occasion, the power company asked for a right of way to place a guy wire 20 feet in my field which I refused to sign, showing them where a similar construction was built in our area and no guy wire was placed in the field.

Their answer to that was it would increase the cost of construction. But I would not sign the release. So the line was built and still stands after many years.

One could go on including the trash thrown into fields and the tires of farm machines hit and many times damaged.

So I think this explains what property owners are faced with after paying taxes for generations. My parents started early in the century.

I say let's realize that farmers are human beings and should be treated as such.

Raymond Snyder
Fleetwood, PA
Berks County

Five winners

After reading the headline on page B30 of the Sept. 11 issue of Lancaster Farming, I think you should be aware of the total Md. Farm Queen contest. There were 23 girls who vied for Md. Farm Queen title and not 5.

Each county in Md. has a separate contest and those individual winners compete for the state title. Five finalists won at the Md. Farm Queen contest; Jane

Lynch, queen; Anne McGinnis, first runner-up; Susan Flanigan, second runner-up; Brenda Bourne, third runner-up; and Susan Sasscer, fourth runner-up.

Thank you for your many informative articles. We are a very happy subscriber to your newspaper.

Wayne McGinnis
White Hall, Md.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, Oct. 2

Md. Polled Hereford Assn. Red, White & Blue Sale, Frederick Md.

Sunday, Oct. 3

Heart of Penn Goat Club, 2 p.m.; program: sire selection.

National 4-H Week — continues through Saturday.

Monday, Oct. 4

Hollidaysburg Community Fair, Blair County, continues through Sunday.

Manheim Community Fair, continues through Friday.

Joint Annual Conference of Pa. Assn. of Conservation Districts and State Conservation Commission, Host Inn, Harrisburg, continues through Wednesday.

Tuesday, Oct. 5

Inter-State District 14, 7 p.m., Montour-Delong Fairgrounds, Washintonville.

Inter-State District 16, Perry County Local, 7:15 p.m., Center Presbyterian Church, Loysville.

Open House, New Bolton Center, PDA-University of Pennsylvania Cooperative Poultry Diagnostic Lab, Kennett Square, 1-4 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 6

Lancaster County Conservation District meeting, 7:30 p.m.,

Farm & Home Center, Lancaster.

Unionville Community Fair, Chester County, continues through Saturday.

Eastern National Livestock Show, State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Md., continues through Sunday.

Eastern Milk Producers Annual Meeting, Hotel Syracuse, Syracuse, N.Y.

Delaware Broiler House Seminar, 8 a.m.-3:15 p.m., University of Delaware Georgetown Substation.

Pa. Assn. of Farmer Cooperatives Annual Meeting, Sheraton, Danville.

Thursday, Oct. 7

Grange Bred Heifer & Dairy Cattle Sale, Guernsey Barn.

Inter-State District 14, Central York County, 7:15 p.m., Winterstown Fire Hall.

NEABA Board Meeting, Tunkhannock.

Friday, Oct. 8

Dairy Goat Management Conference, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Penn State Kellar Conference Center.

Saturday, Oct. 9

International Trotting and Pacing Association Pony Sale, Farm Show Building.

Pa. Arabian Horse Assn. meeting, Elks Club, Boalsburg.

Now is the Time

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water each week throughout the season.

Also, the more water your plants can take up before the ground freezes, the better they will withstand the severe winter conditions. Keep in mind that once the ground does freeze, there will be no free water for the plants to take up. But even though the ground is frozen, the parts of the plant above the ground will continue to lose water.

TO STORE PUMPKINS AND SQUASH

At the end of the harvest season, there is an ample supply of pumpkins and squash. Crop quality of these vine crops is better than in recent years due to favorable growing conditions. Fruit rots prior to harvest were at a minimum. Well matured specimens resulted; observed Arnold G. Lueck, Extension Horticultural Agent.

The hard-shelled squash such as the Hubbards and Table Queen may keep for 3 to 6 months in storage. The knob-end Butternuts would have a shorter time.

Pumpkin varieties vary considerably in how long they will keep. Such soft-skinned varieties like Connecticut Field and the Cushaws have a short storage life, less than 2 months.

The best storage temperature for pumpkins and winter squash is from 50 to 55 degrees with a relative humidity of about 70 to 75 percent. A garage floor or enclosed porch will usually provide such conditions.

Livestock market and auction news

Shenandoah Valley Livestock

Harrisonburg, Va.

Saturday, Sept. 25

Report supplied by auction

FEEDER CATTLE: Feeder Steers - \$3.00 lower; Bulls - steady. Steers: M&L-1 300-500 lbs. 57.00-67.00; 500-700 lbs. 55.00-64.25; 700-1000 lbs. 51.00-58.75; Holstein 300-1000 lbs. 43.00-51.00. S-1&M&L-2 300-500 lbs. 52.00-60.00; 500-700 lbs. 49.00-56.00; 700-1000 lbs. 46.00-50.00. Feeder Bulls: M&L-1 300-500 lbs. 54.00-63.00; 500-700 lbs. 50.50-56.00; 700-1000 lbs. 43.00-49.50. S-1&M&L-2 300-500 lbs. 48.00-54.00; 500-700 lbs. 41.00-46.00; 700-1000 lbs. 40.00-45.00. Heifers: M&L-1 300-500 lbs. 42.00-51.50; 500-700 lbs. 43.00-52.00; 700-800 lbs. 44.00-53.50. S-1&M&L-2 300-500 lbs. 38.00-45.00; 500-700 lbs. 37.00-42.00. Stock Cows: Beef 305.00-375.00; Dairy 300.00-420.00.

SLAUGHTER COWS: Utility & Commercial 2-4 32.00-40.00; Canner & Cutters 1-3 25.50-31.00.

SLAUGHTER BULLS: 1 & 2 38.50-47.00.

LAMBS: Trend - Lambs 2.25 lower. High Choice & Prime 50.25; Choice 43.75; Feeder Lambs Choice 47.50; Slaughter Ewes 8.00-12.50; Head Ewes 25.00-49.00.

HOGS: US 1-2 200-240 lbs. 59.25; Sows 1-3 55.00-62.00; Boars 42.00.

VEAL: Good 61.00-70.00.

SLAUGHTER CALVES: Good & Choice 53.00-61.00.

Omaha Cattle

Thursday, Sept. 30

Report supplied by USDA

Compared to previous weeks close. Slaughter Steers and Heifers ended the week .50-1.00 lower. Cows 1.50-2.50 higher. Bulls 1.00-1.50 higher.

Prices trended lower for the third consecutive week, closing at the lowest levels since December 1981. Declines of 2.00-3.00 in the carcass beef trade forced buyers to

constantly reduce bids and market tone at the close was very bearish. Yield grade continued to be the key factor in bid determination, as YG 4 carcasses still beset by broad discounts in the beef trade. Aside from the increased percentage of YG 4, however, the weeks supply proved rather attractive, with dressing percentages and quality grades running above average.

Steers comprised 36 pct of week's receipts, Heifers 28 pct., Cows 6 pct., Feeders 29 pct. Four day receipts 10103; week ago 9528; year ago 9861.

STEERS: At the close, three loads Choice 2-3 1175 lbs. 59.00. Choice 2-4 1025-1250 lbs. 57.50-58.75. Few lots Choice 3-4 1150-1250 lbs. 57.00-57.50. Mixed Good and Choice 2-3 1000-1150 lbs. 56.50-57.50. Few Good 55.00-56.00.

HEIFERS: Two loads Choice, few Prime 2-4 1000-1050 lbs. 57.50. Choice 2-4 925-1025 lbs. 56.00-56.50. Mixed Good and Choice 58.89, average weight 1148 lbs., as compared 59.43 and 1147 lbs. a week ago. Average cost Heifers 56.84, average weight 1001 lbs., as compared 57.02 and 991 lbs. a week ago.

COWS: High Cutter, Utility and Commercial 1-3 40.50-42.50. few 43.00. Cutter 39.00-40.50. Canner and low Cutter 37.00-39.00.

BULLS: 1-2 1100-1600 lbs. 45.00-52.00.

Penns Valley Livestock

Centre Hall, Pa.

Tuesday, Sept. 28

Report supplied by auction
Beef Cows: Utility and Commercial 40.25-43.10; Cutters 36.50-39.85; Canners 33.25-36.10; Shells 27.50-32.40.

Heifers: Good 52.10-56.75; Standard 48.00-52.00; Commercial 40.25-46.70.

Steers: Choice 53.25-56.85; Good 50.10-52.85; Standard 46.25-49.75.

Bulls: Good 48.25-51.85; Stan-

ard 43.25-47.60.

Feeder Cattle: 300-500 lbs. large frame 42.60-55.50; 300-500 lbs. small frame 38.00-44.60; 500-700 lbs. large frame 44.10-50.50; 500-700 lbs. small frame 41.50-46.10.

Veal Calves: Prime 78.20-89.10; Choice 66.10-77.25; Good 57.50-65.50; Standard 48.20-56.10; Utility 36.10-47.75.

Farm Calves: Bulls 78.00-90.00; Heifers 74.00-88.00.

Hogs: 59.25-61.50.

Sows: 54.25-59.75.

Boars: 38.00-46.50.

Shoats: 25-30 lbs. per head 18.00-30.00; 30-35 lbs. per head 33.50-42.60; 35-50 lbs. per head 47.50-67.00.

Joliet Cattle

Thursday, Sept. 30

Report supplied by USDA

CATTLE: Friday through Wednesday's salable receipts 3550; 5 days last week 2978; same period a year ago 3359. Trading slow to moderate for the week. Slaughter Steers and Heifers ended the week .50 lower. Cows steady.

SLAUGHTER STEERS: Mixed High Choice and Prime 3-4 1200-1300 lbs. 60.50-61.00 Monday, 3 loads 61.00 Wednesday. Choice, few Prime, 2-4 1125-1200 lbs. 59.00-59.50 Wednesday. Choice 2-4 1100-1350 lbs. 58.00-60.25 Monday, 57.50-59.00 Wednesday, 1000-1100 lbs. 57.00-58.50 Monday. Mixed Good and Choice 2-3 1000-1225 lbs. 56.50-58.00, 56.00-57.50 Wednesday. Load Choice mostly 3 1650 lbs. Holsteins 57.00 Monday, load Mixed Good and Choice 2-3 1375 lbs. Holsteins 53.25 Monday.

SLAUGHTER HEIFERS: Mixed Choice and Prime 3-4 1000-1080 lbs. 57.75-58.00 Monday; 57.00-57.25, load 57.50, load 1135 lbs. 58.00 Wednesday. Choice 2-4 900-1180 lbs. 56.00-57.00 Monday, 55.50-57.00 Wednesday. Mixed Good and Choice 2-3 800-1000 lbs. 52.00-56.00.

COWS: Cutter & Utility 1-3 36.00-40.00.