

## 3 Eastern Lancaster meetings this week

**TERRE HILL** — The Eastern Lancaster County Adult Farmer Program will sponsor three meetings during the coming week at the Union Grove School, Terre Hill.

The meetings include an educational session on Guaranteed Markets for livestock and crops on Tuesday evening; a Vegetable Growers meeting on Wednesday evening; and a Farmland Preservation session on Thursday evening.

Speaker for the Tuesday meeting at 7:30 p.m., will be Marlin Miller

from the Pennsylvania Farmer Association. PFA offers a program of guaranteed markets for livestock and crops to farmers in Pennsylvania along with a guaranteed price for future feed grain purchased. This program is of importance to farmers now that many banks are requiring a guaranteed market price before they will lend money in today's tight farm economy.

Speakers for the Vegetable Growers meeting Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., will be Larry Yeager, marketing specialist with the Penn State Extension Service and Mike Orzolek, Vegetable Specialist. Orzolek will be discussing the growing of carrots, a crop that will be grown in the area this year by Beachnut Foods through the Conestoga Valley Growers Association. Yeager will be discussing the marketing of vegetable crops to maximize profits.

**Are we running out of farmland?** Between 1969 and 1978, Pennsylvania lost 150,000 Acres of farmland. During that same period, Lancaster County, the most productive non-irrigated farmland in the United States lost 21,600 acres of farmland. If the loss of farmland continues at that rate, Lancaster County could be running out of farmland.

The Eastern Lancaster County Adult Farmer Program meeting on Farmland Preservation will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday. Speakers for the evening will include Jim Huber, Lancaster County Commissioner; Amos Funk, Millersville area farmer who has been active at the local, state, and national level on both farmland preservation and conservation; and David Watts, Administrative Director of the Lancaster County Farmland Preservation Board. They will be discussing the programs available

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wiring and weakening and fraying the outer protective covering."

Heat lamps pose a very dangerous fire hazard, and should never be used near combustible materials of any sort.

Even barnyard creatures add an element of danger. Boyle says that he has seen electrical boxes totally filled with mud from the home-building of mud wasps. Rodents, such as mice and rats, can become trapped between floors or walls, and chew electrical wires as a last resort for food. Rodent caused fires, though, are more common to private homes than to barns, Boyle believes.

Spontaneous combustion, from

to insure the preservation of farmland and agriculture in Lancaster County.

The Union Grove School, Terre Hill, is located two miles north of Route 23 on Route 625. For further information on any of the meetings, contact Bob Anderson, Adult Farmer Instructor, at (215) 445-5041.

## Fire dangers

stacked hay or straw that is too wet for storage, is not a major problem, but the fire marshall's office does run across it as the cause of an occasional barn fire.

"If you could bottle common sense, and sell it, we'd all be better off," philosophizes Boyle. A 20 year veteran of the state police, half of that time in fire investigation, he shares his offices at York State Police headquarters with partner Robert DeWire.

He laments the burning of the county's landmark barns, which are irreplaceable in their craftsmanship, materials and historic value. With a sigh, Boyle admits that looking at pictures of once-beautiful barns, and listening to the owners reminisce about them, is both a personally and professionally frustrating part of his job.

The Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania maintains reward fund from which up to \$5,000 will be paid for information leading to the arrest and conviction of arsonists.

Persons with information on arson suspects should call the Arson in Pennsylvania Hotline, 800-462-0322.



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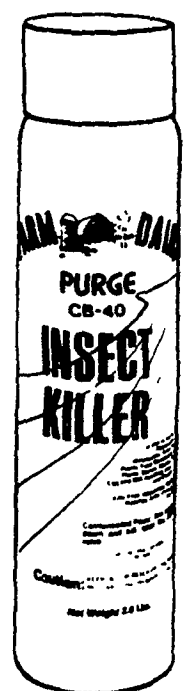
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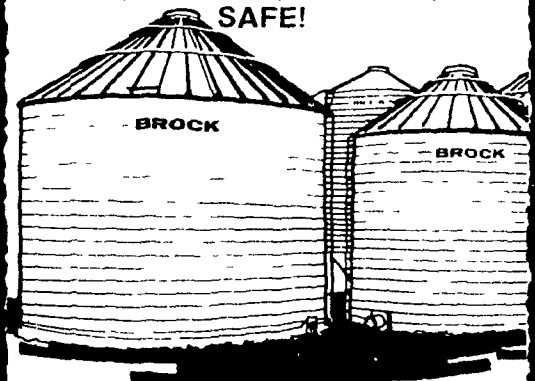
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