

## Now is the Time

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I'm afraid that too many of us are reluctant to inform our legislators how we feel on certain issues. Yet we expect them to represent us and support legislation to our satisfaction.

It often has been said that farmers do not make enough "noise" when it comes to agricultural legislation. This is no doubt true, but it should not be that way.

You have heard the phrase, "the wheel that squeaks the loudest gets the grease." I feel that too many times those who sound off the loudest do not represent the majority views of our farmers.

Don't hesitate to be on good terms with your elected officials; they will appreciate your opinions and it will help them with their major decisions.

### To Order Winter Grain Seed

It is not too early to be ordering your winter grain needs. The seeding of winter oats is only about six weeks away with winter barley and winter wheat close behind. Some growers may choose to use their own seeds, but this is questionable in many cases. We continue to stress that using certified seed is the best practice. It may cost a few dollars more at the beginning, but usually will result in greater yields. Home-grown grains should be cleaned, treated and tested for germination before using. By ordering now, your chances of getting the variety and quality of seed you want is much better. Don't put off until you have to take what is available at seeding time.

(The Cooperative Extension Service is an affirmative action equal opportunity educational institution.)

## OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

### Wake up, Washington

Dear Editor:

National 4-H Week is long gone but those fine declarations that came forth from Washington, D.C. still ring in my ears; how kindly Sec. Block and "Uncle Ronnie"

feel towards the rural community at times like that! It's real good Politics - should help out at the election. For the rest of the year, the farmer is the favorite whipping boy for the politicians.

## Farm Calendar

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9 a.m., Days Mill Road, near York New Salem.

Cochranton Community Fair, Cochranton; continues through Sunday.

Harrold Free Fair, Greensburg; continues through Sunday.

Thursday, August 9

Lebanon County Open Dairy Show, 9 a.m.; Lebanon Area Fairgrounds.

Hunterdon N.J. 4-H Achievement Shows, Flemington Fairgrounds; continues tomorrow.

Marshallton Grange Peach Festival, 7 p.m., Grange Hall in Northbrook.

Conservation and Energy Field Day sponsored by Juniata County Conservation District, Dick Crawford from Honey Grove.

Friday, August 10

Central Jersey Holstein Show, 9:30 a.m., Flemington, N.J. fairgrounds.

Saturday, August 11

Annual meeting of Pa. Livestock Auction Association, Villa Leo, New Cumberland.

SCPPPA Annual Picnic; Gene Hege Farm, Chambersburg, 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Field Day, Cold Brook Preserve, Oldwick, N.J. Tours and demonstrations at 9:30 a.m.

Sussex County N.J. Sheep Breeders Show; continues tomorrow.

Southcentral Pa. Cattlemen's Field Day, 9 a.m.; Laird farm, Dover, York County.

Eastern Pennsylvania Holstein Championship Show, Kutztown.

As a 4-H leader for 45 years, I am really facing a crisis. Perhaps you remember the 4-H motto is "to make the best better," and it looks as if the American farmer has overdone it. We're just out of step with the rest of America - we ought to follow suit and demand as much as we can get for doing as little as possible.

There is such a "surplus" of food in this country - should we give the blue ribbon to the runt of the litter - the poorly grown calf. Shall we advise our 4-Her's to breed their registered cattle to a scrub bull so the next generation will not produce as much. Perhaps Congress, in their great wisdom, will rule that all lights shall be turned out in the barns and on the tractors by 8 p.m. - that would cut down on the 16-hour day! Perhaps they could ban all dairy cows from calving in Feb., March and April to eliminate the spring flush. Perhaps a couple of generations from now, the dairy cow will be eliminated altogether, and the country can drink soybean milk and eat sunflower cheese - if they can find anyone to grow the soybeans and sunflowers.

Speaking of blue ribbons, we really ought to pin any spare ribbons on whoever dreamed up this assessment plan for dairy farmers - the most worthless stupid idea to come out of Washington yet, and that covers a

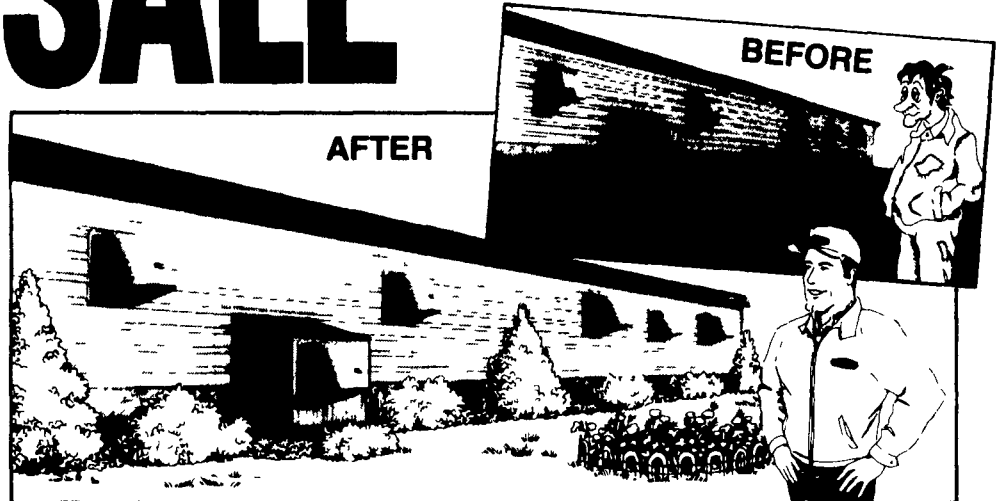
lot of stupid ideas and programs. We wouldn't feel so angry if the money was being used for milk for the school lunch program but at a time of big surpluses, the brain-child people decided to raise the price of milk to the school kids - a very effective way to cut back on consumption. The consumer doesn't get any break either; prices stay up in the grocery stores. The money goes back into the government coffers probably for more military aid for El Salvador and other miserable backward countries that need butter a lot more than guns.

The government people do not realize that we, as farmers, are not only producing tremendous quantities of food for use here and abroad but we are guaranteeing that the next generation will not go hungry. If there is a better strain of grain developed, we pay extra for it so that the yield will be greater - we tend the land with loving care so it will be better when we leave than when we came - we're always researching the sire summaries to find the best possible bulls to continue improving the herd. That's the way we farmers are, and the country should be everlastingly thankful for it. No one can eat the dollar bills, the computers or the fancy cars. No other country has the variety of foods that this country can offer. It

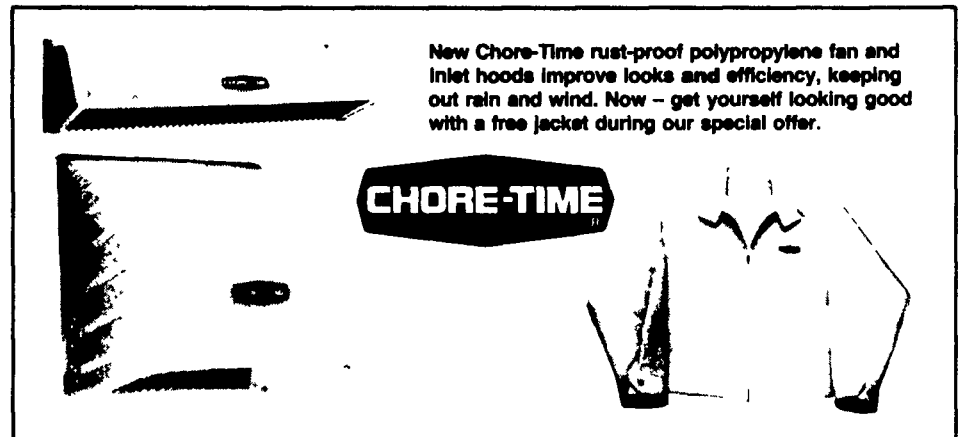
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