



# Farm Talk

by  
**Jerry Webb**

when their duties are pretty well caught up. Maybe it's part of that age-old tradition that says farmers are hardworking, God-fearing, salt-of-the-earth types with their shoulders to the wheel and their noses to the grindstone. That's a heavy burden and it makes having fun quite difficult.

There's a certain amount of pride in the voice of some farmers when they tell you they never take a vacation, or they haven't been off the farm for more than a day in 20 years. There's also something kind of sad about that, especially when you consider an older farmer who is not hurting financially, who's never been anywhere or done anything else besides farm.

The world is a lot larger than a 200-acre farm, and it wouldn't hurt most farmers to take a little time to find that out.

People in business and industry take vacations. They use this time to relax and rejuvenate, and it's said they come back to work with new perspectives and new enthusiasm. Maybe that's what farmers need after many months of fighting all of the problems of agriculture.

So if you hear about a farmer who's gone to Disney World for a few days, don't be too hard on him when he gets back. After all, he's put in a lot of hours this past year and he has some compensatory time due him.

You can bet come early March, when the first signs of Spring start to show, he'll be back from wherever vacation spot he may have chosen with his equipment in tune and his supplies on hand, ready to start another farming year.

## Simbrah popularity on the increase

BOZEMAN, M.T. A few years ago, the American Simmental breed underwent a very rapid period of growth - some even called it an "explosion". Now, it appears that ASA has another potential "explosion" brewing ... in the form of the rapidly expanding Simbrah registry.

"The increase in Simbrah registrations over the past few months has been amazing", said ASA executive vice president Earl B. Peterson. "The demand for Simbrah cattle is growing by leaps and bounds".

Cattlemen have found Simbrah to be especially attractive in warmer environments. However, the breed is not confined to hot climates and sizable numbers are found in many other states as well. The Simbrah has also spread to other parts of the world, including Australia, Africa, South and Latin America.

According to the American Simmental Association, which maintains the herdbook for both breeds, the Simbrah registry surpassed the 20,000 mark in

November, thanks to the two largest months ever for Simbrah registrations. Simbrah registrations totalled 794 in October plus an additional 776 in November, the two largest monthly totals in our history.

"There is every reason to believe that Simbrah registrations will reach an annual total of 10,000 before many more years", Peterson said. He pointed out that many existing beef breeds which have been on the American cattle scene for several years are not registering that many on an annual basis.

"There is wide-spread optimism about the future of Simbrah", Peterson said. "There is a broad base of breeding stock available and we are seeing the breed's popularity reflected in the increased number of new members, requests for information and strong sale results".

Information about Simbrah cattle may be obtained from the American Simmental Association, One Simmental Way, Bozeman, MT 59715.

Do Delmarva farmers really spend their winters in Florida, enjoying the fruits of their summer's labors? There is an old myth to that effect and every once in a while someone mentions a crop rotation that includes corn, soybeans, and Miami. That indicates that some farmers, especially those who grow only crops, limit their activities to corn and soybeans that are grown in a relatively confined period, leaving them plenty of time for extended winter vacations.

That myth was probably started by a dairyman who was a little sore at spending seven days a week milking cows while his crops-farming neighbor took a few days off. But the general consensus on the Delmarva peninsula, and throughout the country for that matter, is that farmers are rather reluctant to take vacations even during the winter lull.

With luck, a corn and soybean farmer can be all through with the hard part of harvesting well before Christmas. That means three or four months before the tractors start to roll again. That's not to say there isn't anything to do around the farm.

First off, most farmers have a big obligation to Uncle Sam that includes a lot of time-consuming paperwork. When that's done there's still the task of marketing last year's crop, planning for the new season, buying supplies, and getting equipment in shape.

The fact is, most farmers have to let a lot of things go during the busy harvest season. They're working day and night trying to get the crops in the bin before the weather turns bad. Some years they make it, some years they don't. Given a rainy fall, they can be out there well into January trying to scrape up crops that have fallen to the ground.

There's no doubt that most farmers take it a little easy in January and February, spending time in educational meetings, attending auctions, shopping around for equipment and supplies, and in general moving at a slower pace. And a few even take real vacations. Some sign up for farm-related tours to exotic places, and some go off on their own to visit family in other places or to just look around.

As a group, it's hard to get farmers away from the farm even



**GIGANTIC SELECTION**  
IN  
**Lancaster Farming's CLASSIFIEDS**

# McCoy CATTLE

## LANCASTER STOCKYARDS

### THE ADVANTAGES OF SELLING YOUR HOGS AT LANCASTER STOCKYARDS!

- Competitive Bidding
- Prompt Payment
- 4 Marketing Days A Week: Mon. 1 P.M., Tues. 10 A.M., Wed. & Sat. Sales Start at 8 a.m.
- Water & Feed Available For Hogs Brought In Other Than Market Days
- Water Available To Cool Hot Hogs In Warm Weather
- In Weights - Hogs Are Weighed Right Off Trucks. Hogs Can Easily Shrink 2-3 lbs. Per Hog Waiting Several Hours To Be Sold (2 lb. x \$.50/lb. = \$1.00 loss per hog) We Weigh Hogs As Soon As Possible Right Off The Truck!

**WE CAN NET YOU MORE DOLLARS PER HOG AND EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS.**

**Main Office 717-397-1411**

Hog Division  
(Mon., Tues., Wed. & Sat. A.M.)  
717-291-8912  
Ed Prosser's Home 717-367-2368

Bill McCoy's Home 717-569-5044  
Pat McCoy's Home 717-656-8076