

If you're involved in agriculture in any way - even if all you do foodrelated it to eat - there's only one place to be this week: the 69th Pennsylvania Farm Show.

But, where's the place to be once you arrive inside the massive sprawling complex with its several acres under roof?

That was never a problem with the farmer. Just point him in the direction of the dairy cattle and the bull stud booths and pick him up from the same vicinity hours later. (Of course, as exhibitors, that part of the Farm Show is "home" for the week, and we literally move what seems like half the farm and household there for the duration.)

Beyond that, where to be was always a tug-of-war among family preferences.

When our junior farmer was a toddler, we had to constantly watch to keep him from taking off to the poultry barn. Cows he could see back home. But something about those gorgeous, brilliantlycolored roosters, puffed-up, scarylooking giant turkey gobblers and geese that might peck little hands, in spite of warnings to keep fingers out, drew him like a magnet.

In fact, the first place our youngsters learned to find, other than the cattle wash rack, was the passageway in the direction of oogling the poultry pen population.

Interests do change. Now this youngest of the brood prefers to hange out around the wishfulthinking displays of push-button,

hydraulic, air-conditioned, stereoequipped monster tractors. But then some things don't change, either, like slipping into the seat of one of those \$100,000 colossal machines, glancing over your shoulder and imagining a huge chisel plow or disc turning up fresh, dark soil.

Like I said. Wishful thinking.

Figuring out where the teenage female exhibitors of our acquaintance are most likely to be is easy: in the shower room, a hairdryer directed either at their heads or toward the only clean pair of jeans left, which a heifer soaked when she dumped a bucket full of drinking water.

I wonder. Has the Farm Show Commission ever considered a small laundry room, with coinoperated washers and dryers? There are times when that would be the place to be.

Of course, we could never forget a couple of swings through the swine and sheep barn, to check out all the little pigs and poke fingers into fat, fluffy fleeces. And that trip inevitably then detoured around through the beef barn, and meandered past the stalls housing those marvelous, giant draft horses.

If I could steal a few precious minutes of my own, I'd slip away to either the home arts and crafts area or head the other direction to the lobby, with its delightful

exhibits of fresh fruits and vegetables.

And lest we forget everyone's favorite spot at some point: the Pennsylvania food booths. Again,

though the problem of where to be arises: at the milk shake or apple juice line, the fries or baked potato counter, or waiting for French-

fried mushrooms or a steaming bowl of vegetable soup?

Then, just before leaving, there is one absolute-must personal stop before we pack up and head back home: "the florists and flower growers' booths - and more agonizing decisions.

Farm Show. It's the place to be. See you there.

Vegetable management program slated

Lancaster County Adult Farmer program will sponsor a vegetable management meeting on Thursday, Jan. 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the Blue Ball Elementary School.

Dan Shantz, vegetable grower, buyer and president of the Pa. Vegetable Growers Association, will be the featured speaker. Shantz is from the Allentown area and will be discussing how area growers can market quality produce, how growers should package produce for the fresh market, and will also offer some

BLUE BALL - The Eastern greenhouse management tips on starting transplants. Also sharing at the meeting will be Larry Yeager, an Extension marketing specialist, who will also be emphasizing marketing packaging quality produce.

All interested persons are invited. The Blue Ball Elementary School is located on Ewell Road, just off Route 23 between the village of Blue Ball and Shady Maple Market. For additional information contact the Adult Farmer Program office at 354-

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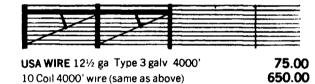
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