

Farm Show opens Sunday

(Continued from Page A1)

arena.

Visitors will be treated to over 250 commercial exhibits and various food booths. In addition, approximately 8,000 individual entries of farm and home products will be proudly displayed.

The Food Marketplace, featuring 25 Pennsylvania food processors and retailers, will return for the fifth consecutive year. Food commodity booths, boasting high-quality Pennsylvania farm products, will be the focus of the Pennsylvania Food Center along the east wall of the main exhibit hall.

Visitors will also be treated to a full slate of livestock shows. Sheep exhibitors will be in the small arena on Sunday and the show will continue with the Corriedale and Rambouillet breeds Monday evening and junior shows on Wednesday. The draft horse show is scheduled for Monday.

Dairy shows will start Tuesday at 8 a.m. and continue throughout the day, while beef cattle shows

will dominate Wednesday's show schedule and continue into Thursday.

The show will climax with the junior steer, market lamb and market swine sales on Friday.

Other special events scheduled for the busy week include Secretary of Agriculture's Night on Monday, featuring the presentation of several prestigious awards, including the Pennsylvania Farm Family Award, the 70th Farm Show Theme Award and the Pennsylvania Farm-City Award.

At 7 p.m. Jim Shearer of Mountville, Lancaster County, will put his well-trained border collies and sheepdogs through their paces in the large arena. Also on schedule is a horse and pony demonstration presented by the Cumberland County 4-H'ers and a hitched horse competition.

Tuesday is Master Farmers' Night and brings the Daigozivo Dance Group of Harrisburg for a first-year performance. The Pennsylvania Folk Dance

Festival, featuring 60 sets of young dancers from throughout the state will kick up its heels in the large arena Tuesday evening.

Meanwhile, in the small arena, sheep enthusiasts will match their skills in the Junior Sheep Blocking and Grooming Contest which gets underway at 7 p.m.

Another of the show's highlights is the championship Horse Pulling Contest Wednesday evening at 4:30 in the large arena.

Contestants square off at 6 p.m. in the Pennsylvania Sheep to Shawl Contest in the small arena. Auction of the shawls follows the Wednesday contest.

Thursday, the final evening during the show, features the State Championship Pony Pulling Contest, set for 6 p.m. in the large arena.

A number of agricultural organizations will also meet during the week, including the Future Farmers of America who will recognize the Keystone Farmers during their Mid-Winter Convention Wednesday.

The Keystone is the highest degree awarded at the state level and goes to chapter members who

have shown outstanding achievements and proficiency in their projects, leadership, competition and other aspects of the FFA program.

For a preview of many of the FFA'ers who will receive their degrees this week, turn to page D2. Lancaster Farming applauds

these outstanding students for their achievements.

This week's issue of Lancaster Farming also includes a complete schedule of events (page D17) and a map (page D17) to help you find your way around Farm Show. A complete list of exhibitors can be found on page D23.

Block resigns as USDA head

WASHINGTON — The year-long battles over the 1985 Farm Bill behind him, USDA Secretary John Block this week announced his resignation, effective within the next few weeks.

President Reagan accepted the resignation with regret and

commended Block for his service in advancing the administration's farm policy stance.

Block did not indicate what his future plans are, but said he was reviewing several different options. No successor has been named.

Reducing drift

Spraying pesticides can present problems if the spray drifts onto a neighbor's property. To prevent this, avoid spraying when it is windy, says Tom

Williams, University of Delaware extension agricultural engineer.

"But," he adds, "while it may not be practical to eliminate spray drift entirely, the operator can reduce two-thirds of the drift by careful equipment selection and operation. Keep both the operating pressure and the boom low."

Low operating pressure produces larger spray droplets. Although small droplets provide better target coverage, the smaller the droplet the greater the risk of drifting. Spray droplet diameters may range from 5 microns (the size of sea fog droplets) to 1,000 microns (raindrops range from 500-1,000 microns). While an aerosol droplet of 5-micron diameter released 10 feet above the ground in a wind of only 3 mph can drift two miles off target, a 50-micron drop drifts only 150 feet off target under the same conditions.

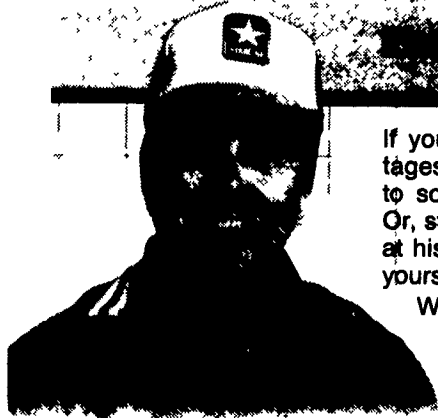
In selecting droplet size, Williams says to balance coverage with drift potential. Although no sprayer nozzle produces droplets all of one size, using low pressure and nozzles with large holes forms more large droplets than small ones. Drops become smaller as pressure increases.

Keeping pressure too low, however, distorts the pattern and gives uneven coverage. Williams recommends operating flooding fan tips at pressures of 10 to 25 psi, flat fan nozzles at 25 to 40 psi, and low pressure flat fans at 15 psi.

Studies show that spray boom height is also a major factor in downwind drift. Williams advises lowering booms and using closer nozzle spacings and wider nozzle spray angles. A new mechanical shield for flat fan nozzles reduces drift at sprayer and wind speeds above 5 mph by increasing downward air velocity around the nozzles to better direct the spray toward the target.

"Remember the winds, though," urges the specialist. "Drift is 70 percent greater in 12 mph winds than in 3.0 mph winds. So when it's very windy, don't spray."

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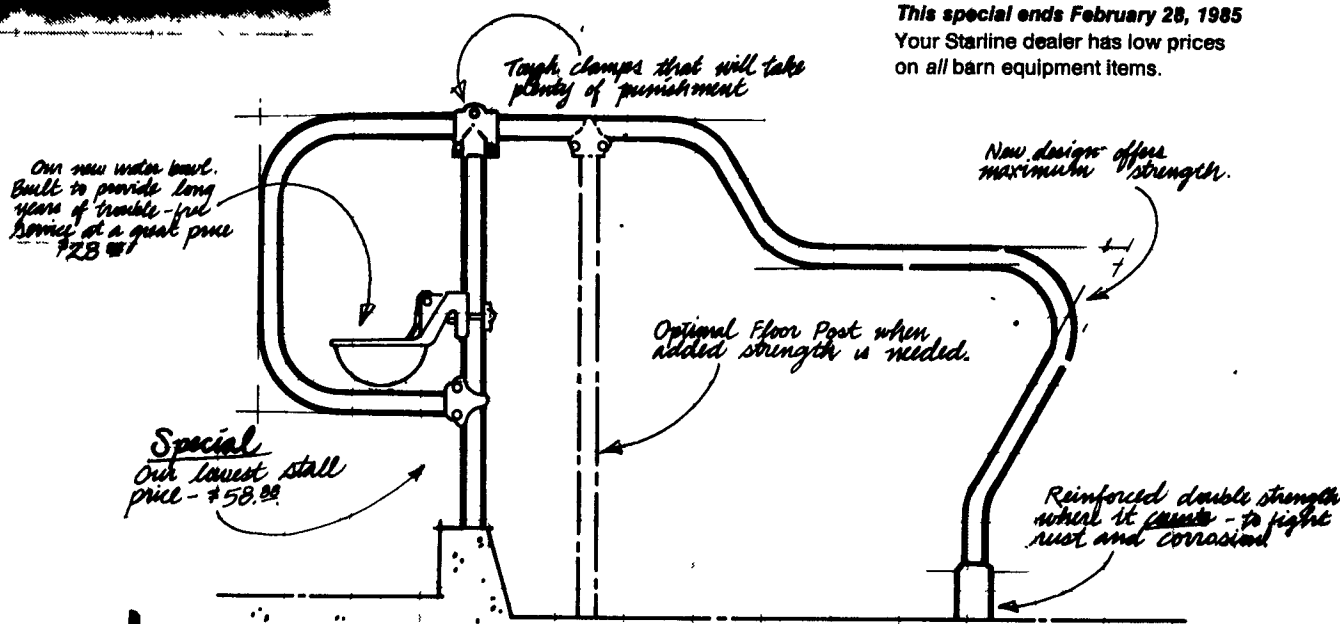
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