

# Farm Calendar



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**Saturday, May 17**  
 Goodville Fire Company - Spring Community Sale, 9 a.m. to ?, quilt auction at 1 p.m., Goodville Fire Co., Rt. 23 between Blue Ball and Morgantown.  
 Bradford County 4-H County Council meeting, Extension office.  
 Somerset County Dairy Princess Banquet, 6:45/8 p.m., Somerset Country Club, Somerset.  
 Mifflin County Dairy Princess Pageant.  
 Rabies Clinic, Rehrersburg, Rehrersburg Lions Grounds. Cats and dogs, 6 months of age are eligible for 3-year killed virus vaccine.

**Sunday, May 18**  
 Luzerne County 4-H Horse Club Open Western Show, Fairgrounds, Rt. 118 Dallas.  
 Centre County Dairy Princess Pageant, Logan Grange Hall, Pleasant Gap.

**Monday, May 19**  
 Question and Answer Sheep Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Lancaster Farm and Home Center.  
 Lancaster Area Sewing Network, 6:30 p.m. Horst Building, Delp Road, Lancaster. For more information, call Ms. Tammie Harsh, 717-285-4309.

**Tuesday, May 20**  
 York County Tax Reassessment Meeting, Spring Grove Area Junior High School Auditorium, Roths Church Road, Spring Gove, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 21**  
 Hunterdon County N.J. Agriculture Development Board Meeting, Extension Center, 8 p.m.  
 Veterinary Nutrition Forum, Host Town, Route 501 Lancaster. Dinner, 7 p.m.; program, 8 p.m.

**Thursday, May 22**  
 Annual Awards Dinner, Pa. Horse Breeders Association, Hershey Hotel.

Over the next few weeks, home gardeners will stock up enthusiastically on vegetable plants and transplants, with visions of bountiful, mouth-watering harvests. How successful they are in reaching this goal will depend on how carefully they select the varieties they plant.

What makes a vegetable variety good for your garden? More than just a pretty picture or a fancy name is involved, says University of Delaware extension garden specialist Dave Tatnall. Growth habit and mature size of plants,

vigor and yield, intended use, adaptability to your growing conditions, and resistance to diseases and insects are the critical factors to consider. Most seed catalogs provide this information as part of varietal descriptions.

**Specific use.** Some varieties are best for immediate consumption. Others are ideal for freezing or canning. Some keep well in storage, some don't. And some are fine for all these purposes. Be sure the varieties you select are suited to the uses you have in mind, Tatnall says.

**Growth habit and mature size.** If you have limited space, look for space-saving varieties. Each year new ones are introduced, including compact forms of squash, cucumbers, cantaloupes and watermelons.

**Vigor and yield.** These qualities depend partly on soil fertility, available water and other growing conditions. It often pays to buy hybrid varieties which offer built-in vigor, improved quality and higher yield than standard varieties.

**Adaptability.** How well a particular variety grows in a given locality depends in part on general climatic conditions, including length of growing season. Seed catalogs and packets furnish much of this information. But be alert to conditions in your own garden, Tatnall advises. Factors such as soil depth and texture, and exposure to sun and wind affect plant performance.

**Resistance to pests.** Select disease-resistant varieties whenever possible. This is especially important for tomatoes, cucumbers, cantaloupes and other crops subject to destructive wilts, mildews and viruses. Some seeds, such as peas and corn, are available treated with a fungicide to prevent rot after planting.

Few varieties have inbred resistance to insects, although many tomatoes are now nematode-resistant, Tatnall says. However, you can select types of vegetables that are naturally less bothered by bugs. Good examples include carrots, lettuce and butternut squash (reported to be borer-resistant).

**Friday, May 23**  
 Bradford County Dairy Princess dinner, Troy Senior High School, 7 p.m.

**Saturday, May 24**  
 Rural Preservation in Pennsylvania Conference, 8:30 a.m., Stahr Hall, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster.

Bradford County Dairy Festival and Dairy Princess Pageant, Troy High School.  
 Wyoming-Lackawanna County Dairy Princess pageant, Moose Hall, Tunkhannock.

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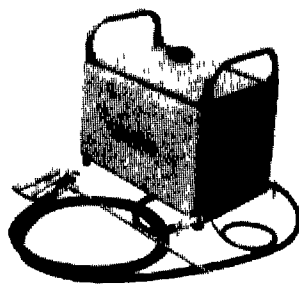
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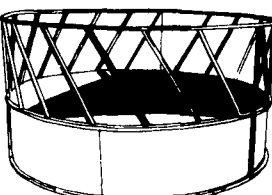


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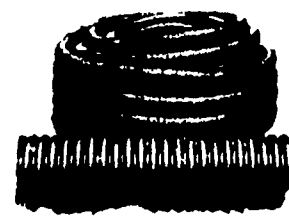
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