

# Farm Philosophy

By  
Newton Bair

## GET READY TO SPRING

It's really funny. I used to get mad when the Ag news articles, written by "experts" of course, started to remind farmers that spring is coming. Heck, I didn't need reminding, I could feel it in my bones. You probably need no prompting either, but what else is there to be both sad and glad about at the same time?

My wealthy neighbors have returned from their winter flight to

Florida, some of the other birds that like to migrate are eating at the feeder in the back yard, and the cows are looking over the barnyard fence at the tufts of green in the night-lot. Maybe it's only garlic green, but that doesn't matter to them. It is time for a change.

Those mixed feelings about the arrival of spring are understandable. The silos and haymows are showing some hollow spots, and the corn must be shoveled out of the corner of the crib. Some of

those fat and lazy heifers are suddenly feeling their oats, and should be trumpeting the mating call any time. And besides, the long underwear gets itchy about now.

There is also a certain sadness about the passing of winter. Long, after-supper evenings, that gave us enough time to read all the adds in Lancaster Farming, (after the evening snooze) were real welcome. Just a few minor freeze-ups traumatized the winter chores, and we only had to plow the snow twice for the milk truck. The winter TV was better than usual, and we gathered plenty of fat, plus a few essential facts, on the Farm Banquet circuit. We're going to miss the winter.

But spring brings more than the fever. No need for sulfur and molasses when the seed catalogs flood the mailbox. Onion sets are already on hand, and the free space along the garden fence that I spaded last fall is nearly dry enough to stick them in. The grapes over the back porch, and the red raspberries behind the glasshouse are ready to trim. Any day now, a package of hope and hard work will arrive from Burpees.

Honeycombed wheat fields are

ready for clover seed. Yes, some of us still start the hay crop that way, although there are ways thought to be better and more efficient. I've seen clover broadcast on the wheatfield in March, grow so thick that the ole' binder would hardly cut the wheat in June. Jack frost, opening and closing the pores of the earth, occurs only in spring.

The Quittapahilla Creek never freezes over. It is fed by too many springs, whose water flows in at 58 degrees. It takes several miles of exposure before it loses heat and freezes along the banks. The length of the Swatara and the width of the Susquehanna will finally dispel the heat from the Quittie's springs.

I think of the word "Spring", in it's many forms and meanings. It is

a season, a flexible elastic device, a way to descend from ancestors, a flow of water from the ground, a leap into the air, a leak in a pipe, a lighthearted way of stepping, and a tide that encircles the Earth. It has so many meanings, none of them bad (except when a water pipe 'springs a leak')!

So, get ready to Spring, with all the implications of that good English word. Everything about the word implies life, renewal, progress and optimism. There is a newness in its meaning, creation in its activity, new miracles of openness and life. And the First Sunday after the first full moon in late March captures the whole range of meaning implied by the word "SPRING".

## Atlantic Lykens Valley Local Elects Officers

SOUTHAMPTON — The Lykens Valley Local of Atlantic Dairy Cooperative District 7 elected officers during its annual dinner meeting Feb. 29.

Elected as president was Ernest Klinger of Klingerstown. Steve Snyder, Pitman, was named vice

president, and Michael Miller, Harrisburg, secretary/treasurer.

Paul E. Clugston, Halifax, was appointed delegate to attend the cooperative's annual meeting. Calvin Mauser, Elizabethville, were named alternate delegate.

## STORAGE BARN & GAZEBOS

Custom Made To Order



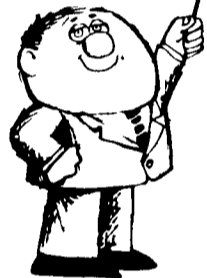
If You're Looking For Quality At A Good Price, Contact

## B & B STRUCTURES

DELIVERY AVAILABLE

Henry K. Blank  
RD 1, Bird-In-Hand, PA 17505  
(717) 656-0783

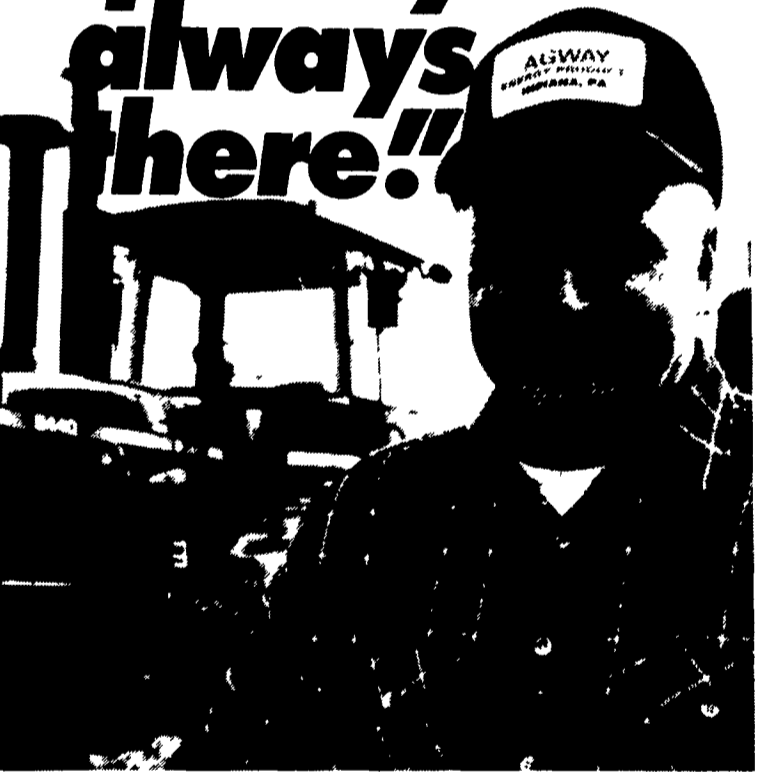
Dealer Inquiries Invited



**A LESSON WELL LEARNED... LANCASTER FARMING'S CLASSIFIED ADS GET RESULTS!**  
Phone: 717-394-3047 or 717-626-1164

## The Premium Green Difference.

# "The diesel quality is always there!"



Charles Altemus, Penn Run, PA

Charles Altemus appreciates the superior quality of Premium Green Diesel™ from Agway Energy Products. Specially formulated and seasonally blended, Premium Green Diesel delivers fast starts, more power and better mileage in all types of weather. That's the Premium Green difference.

## Every 10th gallon free!

Become a new Premium Green Diesel customer today. For every nine gallons you buy on your first delivery, you'll get the tenth gallon free. (You'll save 10%.) Offer expires June 30, 1988. Minimum delivery required. Free offer equivalent to 100 gallons maximum.

Available In The Service Area Of:  
**LANCASTER, PA**  
Phone - 397-4954

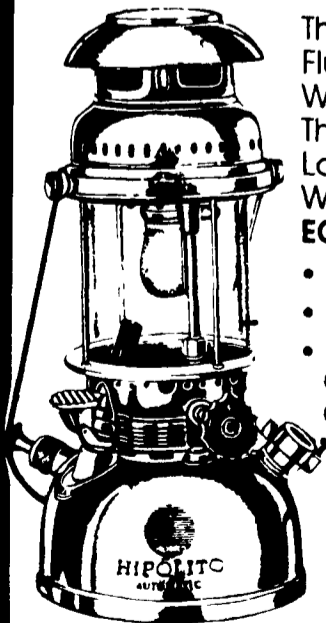
**AGWAY**  
ENERGY PRODUCTS  
FUELS SERVICE EQUIPMENT  
Our people make the difference

Toll Free  
Lancaster County  
Residents Only  
1-800-223-9111

We Have Again Received A Supply Of



## HIPOLITO LANTERNS



Throws A Brilliant, White Fluorescent **500 CANDLEPOWER**, Which Is 200 Candlepower More Than An Ordinary Kitchen Lantern, (Equivalent To A 400 Watt Bulb) Yet it is **ECONOMICAL TO USE!**

- Uses Kerosene - Safer To Use
- Does Not Require Alcohol To Preheat
- Heavy Duty Generator Can Be Cleaned Repeatedly (No Springs Inside)
- Fittings Available To Use With Pressure Hose
- Tank, Hood, Frame, Made Of BRASS (Nickel Plated)
- 1 Year Warranty

Shipped UPS Same Day

**\$69.75**

Postage Paid  
PA Residents add  
6% Tax Unless Used  
For Dairies

## NICKEL MINE SHARPENING

323 E. White Oak Rd., Paradise, PA 17562

**FREE STALLS**  
DON'T BUY UNTIL YOU SEE OUR NEW **QUADRABEND FREE STALLS**  
**NORBCO EQUIPMENT**  
P.O. BOX 267  
WESTMORELAND, N.Y. 13490  
315-853-3936