



# OPINION

## Go To An Auction

The call of the auctioneer at a farm or house sale creates a special kind of excitement that has caused this method of marketing to endure for centuries. Records show that auctions have been used as early as 500 B.C. In more recent times--1949 to be exact--the National Auctioneers Association was formed in this country to insure continued advancement of this selling business. At the time, only a small number of auctioneers were involved in the association. But today, NAA has 6,000 members and has developed and sponsored many educational programs to insure the professionalism of its members. The Certified Auctioneers Institute is an advanced auction management educational program that helps fulfill the association's purpose. In addition, members have access to current materials about their industry to help them serve their clients better. To encourage members to main-

tain their high standard of integrity, the NAA member auctioneers abide by a published code of ethics.

In all marketing situations you need to get the buyer and the seller together under the most favorable conditions for negotiations to be conducted. In the rapid fire selling of an auction, an ongoing negotiation process takes place. There the bidders get a chance to say yes or no by the nod of the head, a wink of the eye, or wave of the hand.

This week, April 4-10, has been designated as National Auctioneers Week. At an auction, you can find almost anything to buy-- farm supplies, equipment, household goods, antiques, automobiles, even art or real estate. We think it's a good time to go to an auction, pick out something you like, and make your bid known when the item is up for sale. You will likely get a good buy and have a lot of fun at the same time.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Incorporate Manure

Many barns, poultry houses and feed lots will be cleaned out in the next few weeks. We repeat the suggestion that this material be either injected into the soil or worked into the topsoil within a few days after application. This will not only preserve more nutrients but will reduce odors and preserve good public relations with your neighbors. Discing, chiseling or plowing after the waste application is strongly recommended. Livestock and poultry manure have considerable fertilizer value when applied into the soil before exposed to weathering. We urge our farmers to recognize this organic fertilizer and utilize it fully.

We hope our non-farm people understand that applying manure to our fields is part of farming and part of rural living. It may be unpleasant for a short time, but as far as I know, rural odors have never been proven to be a health hazard. We hope everyone tries to understand the needs and cares of others.

### To Start Grazing Gradually

With the amount of warm weather and good growing conditions, we're seeing pastures growing very rapidly. This is also true with producers that are planning to graze winter grains such as rye or barley. The herd or flock should be

302-734-4653.

Feeder Lamb Sale, 10 a.m., Hickory Hill Farms, Delaware Research Center, West of Cheswold on route 42.

Maryland State Dairy Bowl, University of Maryland.

Northwestern PA Beekeepers Workshop, Northwestern REC Bldg., Cambridge Springs.

Tuesday, April 19

Demonstration of DHIA Records Access on PSU Computer, 7 p.m., Bird-in-Hand Restaurant.

Thursday, April 21

Northeast PA Regional Beekeepers Short Course, Grace Episcopal Church, Honesdale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., hive inspection 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Spring Pre-Fair Grange Meeting, Stanton Grange, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 22

Rabbit Conference, PSU 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Short Course Office, 814-865-8301.

Biodynamics As Applied to Com-

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controlled at first and not allowed on the area for more than a half hour; bloating and scouring may result if they consume too much of the lush forage the first few days. Also, it's best to feed the animals some dry matter such as silage, hay or straw before turning them out to pasture the first few times. Dairy farmers should keep milking cows from the grazing area at least 4 to 5 hours before the milking period.

### To Manage Alfalfa Stands

With nearly every species of livestock, the feeding of top quality alfalfa hay or silage is highly recommended.

At dairy meetings we hear how good alfalfa is in the ration, and at sheep meetings we learn that good alfalfa hay is the backbone of the ewe feeding program. Alfalfa meal is often used as a source of protein in other rations. It all adds up to the fact that alfalfa is one of our most important forage crops. Every farmer should make a special effort to produce maximum yield per acre. This takes management along with proper lime, fertilizer, insect and disease control. Since we are now at the beginning of another cropping season, more attention to alfalfa may benefit many farmers.

Don't be satisfied with a poor stand. The crop is worthy of our best efforts.

### To Treat Farm Pond Weeds Early

Pond owners who experienced weed problems last summer will undoubtedly have similar or worse problems this year. Aquatic vegetation will have a tendency to increase where no control measures were taken the year before. These weed problems unfortunately multiply.

Early in the growing season is the better approach to gaining control of pond weeds. Aquatic plants are most susceptible to control by chemical herbicides when the plants begin to grow rapidly; if mechanical controls are to be used there will be less bulk in plant material to contend with; control of the unwanted plants before flowering and seed setting occurs has benefits. Early treatment means less interference with fishing, boating, swimming or whatever other pond activities are involved.

Always follow label directions carefully where chemical controls are used and be sure you have a permit from the Penna. Fish Commission before applying any chemical to your pond.

## Farm Calendar

### Saturday, April 9

Supreme Creation Holstein Calf Sale, State College.

4th Tri-State Rabbit Council and Trade Show, 4-H Park, Denton, Md.

Montgomery Co. Holstein and Dairy Princess Contest, Towamencin Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

Maryland State Holstein Show, Timonium Fair Grounds, 9 a.m.

### Monday, April 11

4-H Capitol Days, Harrisburg, April 11-12.

Chester County Cooperative Extension Annual Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Extension Office, West Chester.

Maryland State Holstein, Cow Palace, Timonium.

United Egg Producers Spring Legislative Meeting, The Grand Hotel, Washington, DC. April 11-14.

Berks Conservation Banquet, Hoggs Hotel, Shortlesville, 7 p.m.

Beef Producers Workshop, Cecil Co. Extension, Elkton, MD, 7:30 p.m.

Mercer-Venango County, Sheep Shearing School, Through April 12, 9 a.m. Carl Gadsby Farm near Grove City.

### Tuesday, April 12

There will be NO Conservation Tillage Field Day as previously noted on the Herbert Myer Farm.

Poultry Sales & Service Conference, Penn State University,

University Park. Through April 13.

### Wednesday, April 13

Lawrence County, two-day sheep shearing school, 9 a.m. Whiting Farm near Pulaski.

### Thursday, April 14

Land use meeting, 7:30 p.m. Farm and Home Center

York County Farm Tour to Franklin County.

New Jersey Livestock Cooperative Auction Meeting, 8 p.m. Tranquil House, Tranquility, New Jersey.

FARMER Fund Raiser, 6 p.m. West Shore Country Club, Camp Hill.

Bradford County Milking School, Bradford Co. Library, 10 a.m. Burlington.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers Ladies Day Out Dinner Program, Cloister Restaurant, Ephrata.

### Friday, April 15

Western PA Holstein Spring Spectacular, Mercer.

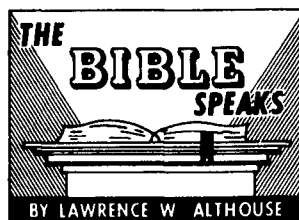
Deadline for PA Dairy of Distinction Entry.

Franklin County, 4-H Dairy Calf Sale, Ralph Horts, Marion, 7 p.m.

### Saturday, April 16

Little International Livestock Expo, Ag Arena, University Park, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

37th Annual Delaware State Grange Scholarship Dinner, Capital Grange Hall, Dover, DE. 6:30 p.m. Call



## TAKING EASTER "ON THE ROAD" April 10, 1988

### Background Scripture:

Matthew 6: 24-34; 28: 16-20.

### Devotional Reading:

Luke 24: 44-49.

As I write this week's column, I am in Europe. All around me I see elaborate preparations for the annual celebration of *Carnival* or, as many German-speaking people call it, "*Fasching*." In some communities the pre-lenten celebration lasts for several months and the tradition is several hundred years old. Parades, gay costumes, elaborate balls and parties, fireworks, and non-stop merry-making are all part of the annual observance. In the USA only New Orleans *Mardi Gras* gives us any insight to the gaiety of this celebration.

### THE DAY AFTER

From what I've previously observed of *Carnival*, it seems to me that, despite the enormity of the celebration, *Carnival* has little or no lasting effect upon people's lives. The day after it ends -- usually Ash Wednesday -- apart from fatigue and various hangovers, people go back to work pretty much the way they did before *Carnival* began. Apparently it is lots of "fun" while it lasts, but it is not really a life-changing experience.

Unfortunately, it would seem that for many people that's all that Easter is -- a wonderful celebration, but nothing that lasts much

beyond Easter Sunday. The day after Easter sees the world pretty much back at "business as usual." Easter is packed away for another year until the calendar tells us it is upon us.

That may be what happens in many communities, but that is certainly not what is intended. After the first Easter, Jesus made it clear that, rather than being the end of something, Easter was just the beginning: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (28:19,20). Just as a successful Broadway show is "taken on the road," that's what we are called to do with Easter. Rather than tucking it away until next year again, Easter needs to have an effect upon all the days after the celebration.

### A MOVABLE FEAST

Depending upon when this column appears in your newspaper, Easter has already been over for several days. In fact, on Monday after Easter you were probably confronted with all those pressing concerns and responsibilities that are part of your everyday life. Easter didn't make them go away. But what Easter can do is to put them into a different perspective. Jesus once told his disciples, "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well" (6:33). We are not freed of the concerns of Easter Monday, but if we look at them in the light of Easter Sunday, life can never be just the same again. Easter is never "over."

What about you? Have you taken Easter "on the road"?

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