



OPINION

Let's Find The Shooter

For the second time in as many months, a farm animal has been shot while sleeping in the pasture. Last month a Hereford bull calf was shot with an arrow. Not only did the calf suffer, the farmer had an unnecessary expensive hospital bill from New Bolton Center. In addition, a heifer calf was stolen at the same time.

This week a bred Holstein heifer was shot at night. This animal survives only because the shooter was a poor marksman.

We find it hard to believe that anyone is so deranged that they

would want to cause animals to suffer by ping-pong rifle bullets off their heads and lodging arrows in their throats. But deranged they must be. Any true farmer at heart hurts within himself almost more for the suffering of his animals than for his economic loss.

We can only hope that should you know or see anything or anyone that may provide a clue to who did these horrendous acts of violence to these animals-- we can only hope that you will call the police. You may remain anonymous if you wish.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Attend Ag Progress Days
Most farmers do not need much prodding to visit an agricultural show whether it is in the county or half way across the state.

Each year thousands of people have jammed Penn State University's Rock Springs Agricultural Research Center, nine miles west of Boalsburg on Route 45, to attend the Annual Ag Progress Days. The dates are August 16-18. Activities will start at 9:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. each day.

This year's show should be one of the biggest and best ever. The theme of this year's event is "An Industry Called Agriculture." Come to Ag Progress Days and see how agriculture research affects your life. Special exhibits will show why agriculture is Pennsylvania's #1 industry.

Take a day out of your busy schedule (you've earned it) and plan to attend Ag Progress Days. Parking and admission are free.

To Observe Poultry Month
The Lancaster County Commissioners have proclaimed August as Poultry Month. So, this is a good time to reflect on the impact this important industry has on the economy of Lancaster County. Poultry products in Lancaster County provide nourishment for over 6 million people. The value of the

York/Lancaster Vegetable Growers meeting, William Smith Farm, Mt. Wolf.

Thursday, August 4
Mifflin County Holstein Show, 4-H Park, Reedsville

Friday, August 5
Lebanon County Holstein Show, Lebanon Fairgrounds, 9:00 a.m.

Morrison Cove Holstein Show, Memorial Park, Martinsburg, 9:00 a.m.

PA Seedmen's Association Meeting, Hershey Motor Lodge, 10:00 a.m.

Lancaster County Poultry Queen Pageant, Farm & Home Center
Berks County Holstein Club Picnic, Schuler Farm, between Kutztown and Fleetwood, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 6
1988 PA Simmental Field Day, Windy Hill Farms, Titusville, 10:00 a.m.

PDA Performance Tested Ram

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poultry products sold totaled over \$193 million. It is estimated that nearly 10,000 people are employed in the many different areas of the poultry industry in Lancaster County.

The industry is strong because of the dedicated, well-managed poultry farms along with a highly efficient and supportive allied industry. Eggs and poultry meat are two of the most nourishing foods in your health diet. Let's be supportive of this important part of our agricultural economy during Poultry Month.

To Communicate With Legislators

How long has it been since you, as a farmer, have been in contact with your Senator, Congressman, or Representative?

I'm afraid that too many of us are reluctant to inform our legislators how we feel on certain issues. Yet we expect them to represent us and support legislators to our satisfaction.

It often has been said that farmers do not make enough "noise" when it comes to agricultural legislation. This is no doubt true, but it should not be that way.

You have heard the phrase "the wheel that squeaks the loudest gets

the grease." I feel that too many times those who sound off the loudest do not represent the majority views of the farmers.

Don't hesitate to be on good terms with your elected officials; they will appreciate your opinions and it will help them with their major decisions.

To Be Aware of the Pollen Count

The "hay fever" season is here. Despite its name, "hay" is not normally the cause of hay fever. Ragweed is the chief cause. Ninety percent of all allergic reactions to grass and weed pollens are due to ragweed.

Hay fever is a seasonal disease. It's a disease that many people tend to minimize despite the fact that one out of every three sufferers develop its serious form — chronic asthma.

In Lancaster County it is widespread from early August through September when the weeds flower. The best way to destroy ragweed over large areas is by the use of a weed spray such as 2,4-D. Cutting the plant low, near the roots is recommended for small areas. The best way to prevent the spread of ragweed is to keep idle land covered with grass.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, July 30
Brown Swiss Maryland Field Day, Frederick, Md., 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, July 31
Wyoming/Lackawanna Holstein Field Day, George Sheypuk's, Jermyn, noon.

Lebanon Area Fair, Lebanon, through August 6

Mercer County Grange Fair, Mercer, through August 6

Union County West End Fair, Laurelton, through August 6

Monday, August 1
Tioga County Invitational Sale, Gordon Wood, sale manager.

Morrison Cove Dairy Show, Martinsburg, through the 5th

Goshen Country Fair, West Chester, through the 6th

Cecil County Fair

Clearfield County Fair, Clearfield, through the 6th

Potter County Fair, Millport, through the 6th

Tuesday, August 2
Fayette County Holstein Show, Fayette County Fairgrounds, Uniontown, 9:00 a.m.

Franklin County Holstein Field Day

Tioga County Holstein Sale

Butler County Holstein Twilight Meeting, Ken Brennan farm

Ephrata Young Farmers Tour, Ephrata Junior High School at 5:00 a.m., through August 3

Jacktown Fair, Wind Ridge, through the 6th

New Stanton Farm & Home Fair, New Stanton, through the 6th

Sire Power Twilight meeting, E. James McMath's home, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 3
Berks County Area FFA Swine Show & Sale, Leesport Auction; show starts at 9:00 a.m., sale starts at 6:00 p.m.

Penn Jersey No-Till Conference, Annandale, W.J.

Linesville Area Community Fair, Linesville, through the 6th

Tioga County Fair, Whitneyville, through the 8th

PA Bureau of Forestry, Northumberland Co. Conservation Dist. Woodland tour, 6:30 p.m. John Epler's property behind the Leon Epler Farm Market on Rt. 11.

FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Editor:
Mark Twain used to say there were liars, ---- liars, and statistics. I'd like to amend that and say that there are liars, ---- liars, and budget figures.

Over the last several weeks, farmers from one end of the state to the other have been led to believe that the Governor cut the heart out of agriculture by signing a state budget.

Balderdash! What he did was avert a budget crisis that could have stopped state spending for agriculture altogether. If he had not signed the only state budget

presented to him before the July 1 deadline, state funding would have stopped: period.

In the meantime, he has and will continue to urge the State Senate to get serious about passing a budget that is balanced and fair.

When that happens — and I am confident that it will — we will finally see the true budget figures.

In the meantime, let's hope we get a lot less rhetoric and a lot more rain.

Boyd E. Wolff
PA Secretary of Agriculture

Lancaster Farming
Established 1955
Published Every Saturday
At Record-Express Office Building
22 E Main Street -
Lititz, PA 17543
— by —
Lancaster Farming, Inc.
A Steinman Enterprise
Robert G. Campbell General Manager
Everett R. Newswanger Managing Editor
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