

Family Farm Day

(Continued from Page A36)

thing to be pruning apples all winter long."

Our hallmark

Hodge emphasizes the "pick-your-own" philosophy of the store. "Things that you would just never think people would pick, we offer for pick-your-own."

"That's been our hallmark, the thing we promoted, and what people know us for."

The company is trying to stay attuned to what customers want, said Hodge. But they've resisted, for quite some time, the practice of "entertainment farming," where people want certain side attractions in addition to picking crops.

These attractions include animal cages, activity sets, balloons, picture-taking stops, and other carnival-type activities.

Serious growers

"We're serious growers," he said. "And we want people to see what happens in serious growing. We want people to come out here and say, hey, wow, today we can pick peppers, eggplant, red raspberries, blueberries. . . ."

Because so many people do not understand how food is produced, the family day will provide some truth to counter the misconceptions about farming by the public.

Hodge spoke about the Alar scare of a few years ago and how Highland Orchards responded.

"We got a lot of calls. People said, 'Do you use Alar?' No, we don't. 'Great' (they said.) 'I wanted another place because I don't want to buy it from a supermarket where they sprayed Alar.'" said Hodge. "But it's not

the supermarket that sprays the Alar."

The farm uses an integrated pest management program for the past 10 years, and carefully monitors how the crops are managed.

Strawberry planter demonstra-

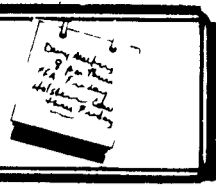
tions, a self-guided walking tour for families, and equipment demonstrations will also show how orchards work at the Family Farm Day, according to Hodge.

"We want people to know that this is how it grows, this is where it grows, this is what the plant looks like, it's not grown in a supermarket," he said.



Rhubarb can be picked during the Family Farm Day this Sunday at Highland Orchards, south of Thorndale. Here, David Hodge, left and Stuart Constable stand on the pick-your-own location.

Farm Calendar



(Continued from Page A10)

Franklin Co. 4-H Beef Club annual 4-H Spring Preview Beef Show, Shippensburg Fairgrounds.

Bradford Co. Erosion and Sedimentation Workshop For Timber Harvesters, Camp Lackawanna, Vosberg, 8 a.m.

Sunday, June 2

Woodedge Stables and Equestrian School, Moorestown, N.J., 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Thursday, June 6

Feeding Holsteins For Beef Workshop, First Baptist Church, Port Allegany, 7 p.m.-8 p.m.

Friday, June 7

Saturday, June 8

Adams Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Biglerville High School, Biglerville, 8 p.m.

Lebanon Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Lebanon Co. Vo-Tech School.

Somerset Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Somerset Area High School, 7:30 p.m.

Bradford Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Troy Senior High Auditorium, 8:15 p.m.

Pa. Young Dairymen's Association, southcentral district, meeting, Logan Bower Farm, Blain, 11:30 a.m.



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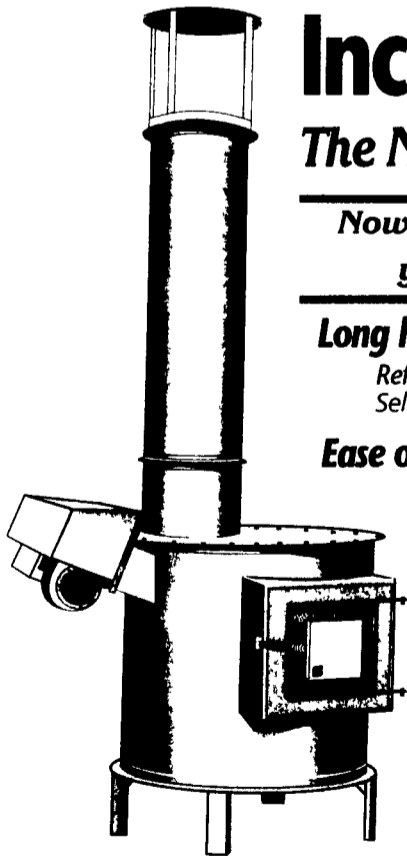
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