

Auction Benefits Clinic For Special Children

STRASBURG (Lancaster Co.) — A special benefit auction will be held Sept. 28 at the Martin Sales Pavilion to benefit The Clinic For Special Children. The clinic's address is Box 128, Strasburg, PA 17579.

The clinic is a nonprofit organization for diagnostic and primary care service for children with inherited diseases. Glutaric Aciduria and Maple Syrup Urine Disease (MSUD) are two common biochemical disorders that require a complex approach for successful treatment.

The clinic's approach includes an infant testing program for early diagnosis, primary medical care to prevent devastating effects of metabolic diseases during common childhood illnesses, clinical

research to improve treatment, and services to support the needs of parents.

In addition to these two diseases, the clinic cares for children who have complex needs due to other genetic disorders, some of which are yet to be identified. Research at the clinic seeks to unlock these riddles. Although fees for services help meet some of the costs of

operating the clinic, they will never cover the entire cost, particularly the research component which is so vital in improving treatment and increasing understanding of metabolic diseases.

Many children seen at the clinic require extensive review of previous records, test results, lengthy talks with parents, and thinking time. This costs a lot in time and

effort. Many of these children previously had not received the medical care they needed for this very reason.

In order to meet these complex medical needs without government support or high-fee schedules, the clinic needs continued support.

Donations for the auction can be anything, new or used, that will sell. Acceptable items would include quilts, crafts, baked goods, tools, housewares, farm items and supplies, furniture, groceries, and gift certificates.

Anyone who would like to donate items may call Leonard Hurst, (717) 626-4863; Enos Hoover, (717) 354-5415; Harvey Hoover, (717) 656-9694; or Ernest Zimmerman, (717) 733-2645 (evenings) or (717) 738-1121 (daytime).

The Clinic for Special Children is a registered charitable organization. The committee will appreciate anything you can contribute to the auction.

The Martin Sales Pavilion is located along Route 340, east of Intercourse. The sale starts at 9 a.m.

Boar Patrol Polices Pigs

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — Watch out for boar patrol. . . if you're a pig, that is. Boars won't put up with any funny business between pigs, two Colorado State University researchers proved last spring.

"It's like Arnold Schwarzenegger entering the room," said Temple Grandin, assistant professor of animal sciences at Colorado State. "Fighting stops. The pigs just straighten up when the boar approaches."

Pork producers find pigs fight more when mixed with pigs from other pens as they are sorted for market. Fighting injures and stresses pigs prior to slaughter. "Fighting is detrimental to their welfare and causes economic loss to the pork industry," Grandin said. The animal behaviorist noted that few methods to reduce in-fighting among pigs seem more effective than introducing several resident boars.

The reason is androsterone, found in boar saliva and fat. When used as a concentrate on feeder pigs, fighting diminishes, another researcher discovered. But the substance requires further testing before it can be marketed to pork producers.

Grandin, who has a penchant for finding practical solutions for difficult problems, decided resident boars might be an economical and easy way to introduce androsterone. She and Jennifer Bruning of Denver, one of Grandin's students, tested the hypothesis at Comanche Livestock Co. near Strasburg, Colo.

They observed 200 pigs as they were sorted from five pens. Two groups of 50 entered pens with three young, sexually mature boars. The resident boars, Grandin said, had to be friends or they wouldn't work together to manage the unruly pens of pigs.

They also observed two other pens of pigs mixed without benefit of boar patrol. On comparison, the researchers discovered resident boars reduced injuries by more than half.

"We found resident boars kept the newly mixed pigs in line," Grandin said. "We observed that the pigs moved out of the way and even stopped fighting when a boar was near. The few fights that occurred in the presence of boars were less intense."

Grandin and Bruning expect the boar patrol will continue to get respect from pigs and, they hope, from pork producers as well.

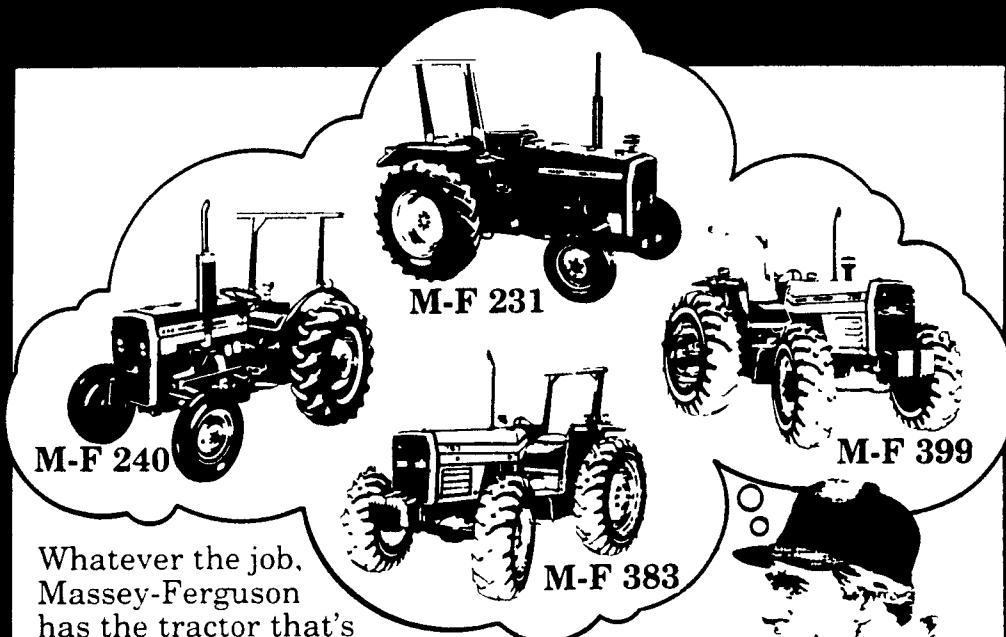
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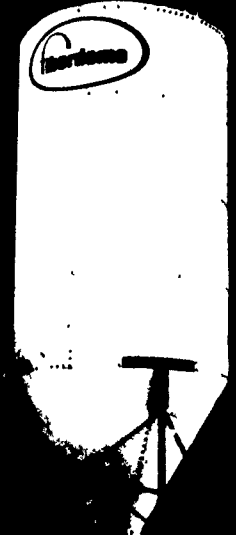


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