

Search For Pa. Cattlemen's Queen

PORT MATILDA (Centre Co.) — Applications for the 1994 Cattlemen's Queen Program are being accepted by the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association. PCA will be selecting a Queen and alternates in late March in the State College area.

The Queen contest is open to any interested female, ages 18 to 23. Contestants must have a working knowledge or have displayed abilities to work with cattle at the on-farm level of the cattle industry.

The Cattlemen's Queen will be officially crowned at the annual Cattlemen's Awards Banquet, Friday, April 8, during the 1994 Pennsylvania Beef Expo. She will represent the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association and the beef industry at various events throughout the state.

Applications are available by contacting Sue Clair, chairman of the Queen Program Committee, 568 Rock Road, State College, PA 16801, or by calling Mrs. Clair (814) 238-1233.

Keep Tree Fresh

TOWANDA (Bradford Co.) — After you purchase a tree, keep your tree fresh by doing the following: When you bring your tree home, stand it in a bucket of water outdoors or in a cool place indoors. If you leave the tree outside it must be protected from cold, drying winds and the sun. Snow and rain will not harm the tree but heat will cause the needles of some species to dry quickly. When you bring your tree in to decorate it, make a fresh cut across the butt at least one inch above the existing cut. The cut

should be smooth and clean to insure the maximum amount of water absorption. Place the tree in a container of water or a stand that has a water reservoir. Keep the reservoir filled above the base of the stem. Check the reservoir often as trees will use a tremendous amount of water, sometimes two quarts per day. If the reservoir is allowed to go dry, it will inhibit the ability to absorb water even if the reservoir is refilled. There is no "magic formula" that you can add to the water that will keep your tree fresh. Water is still the best to use.

Tips To Keep Tree, Home Safe

1. Keep tree away from fireplaces, radiators, TV sets, heater vents, and anything else that could dry the needles.
2. Keep candles away from the tree and use fireproof decorations and light reflectors. Do not let tinsel touch light sockets.
3. Check all Christmas tree lights for loose connections or bare wires. Lights with brittle or cracked insulation should be replaced instead of patched.
4. Plug in all sets of lights to detect burned out bulbs and short circuits before using them on the tree.
5. Purchase only Christmas lights that are wire in parallel and bear the approved label of Underwriters Laboratory.
6. Don't overload electrical circuits. For a typical home tree with

36 bulbs, you are adding 250 watts to the circuit. A 15 amp fuse is capable of handling a total of 1,500 watts. If a fuse blows, it means the line is overloaded or attached to defective equipment. Do not replace with a larger fuse.

7. Unplug lights when leaving the room, even for 10 minutes. Never leave the lights on when you are not home.

Keep Financial Records Trouble-Free

HUNTINGDON (Huntingdon Co.) — The Christmas season is a time when expenditures can get out of control. Soon it will be time to think about taxes. Better record keeping is one way to save time, energy and undue anxiety. Here is some advice on keeping track of your finances from Marilyn Furry, assistant professor at Penn State.

Good record keeping can be an asset, too, in improving your family finances. Accurate records are useful in making decisions on credit use, insurance, major purchase, and money designated for longer term goals.

Creating an efficient filing system is the first step to improving your record keeping. A filing system for your family's financial records doesn't have to be elaborate, costly, or time consuming. Setting up a series of folders, envelopes or large brown paper bags cut down, is really three-fourths of the work. Use labels that make sense to you and will

help you find the information when needed.

Include in your current household files account books, bank statements, cancelled checks, receipts and receipted bills.

Permanent household filing systems should contain receipts and receipted bills for the past six years, your safe deposit box number, key and list of contents, warranties, letters of instruction and copies of your will, household inventory, health, education and employment records. All of these items may be needed in a hurry in the event of accident or financial crisis; be sure all your family members are acquainted with the files.

You might also note that certain financial records do not belong in your home. Your auto title and bill of sale, birth certificates and marriage and divorce records, government securities, corporate securities, insurance policies, mortgages, property and real estate

papers, and for Pennsylvanians, the original copy of your will should all be secured in a safe deposit box.

In your filing system, include a separate envelope for anything related to taxes. As well as last year's return, file records of items that may be used as deductions that year. Include incidental expenses, such as miles traveled on a trip to the doctor or the cost of a lunch purchased for a business client.

Having a good record storage and retrieval system will prevent potential deductions from being lost in the shuffle and save you time, energy and frustration whenever financial records need to be located. Involve family members in designing a center and system. Devise your own system now and follow through with it throughout the year; have your family's financial picture at your fingertips.

Tractor Drivers Need Ear Protection

MARSHFIELD, Wis. — Farmers are working long hours on heavily burdened tractors to complete fall tillage.

It's not quiet work. The machinery and the often-present radio can combine to create dangerous noise levels, according to a study conducted by the National Farm Medicine Center (NFMC), a research and education program of Marshfield Clinic.

NFMC researchers studied 155 tractors on 36 central Wisconsin farms of varying sizes for noise at the driver's ear level. Tractors were tested with radios off and on, windows open and closed. Tractors ranged in age from new to more than 40 years old. Only 45 of the tractors had cabs.

From the study results, Marshfield Clinic Otolaryngologist James Holt, M.D., Audiologist

Donald Hansen, and Statistician Steven Broste offer the following suggestions:

- Wear hearing protection if more than three to four hours are spent in a tractor with a cab.
- When using a tractor without a cab, use hearing protection if noise exposure will last more than one-and-a-half to two hours, especially if the radio is on.

Foam ear plugs and/or noise-reducing ear muffs work well and can prevent serious hearing damage, Holt said.

"It has to be a lifestyle choice," Holt said. "Wearing ear plugs once a year won't accomplish much."

Approximately 75 percent of the tractors without cabs studied exceeded 90 decibels at full throttle — about as noisy as a motorcycle with a bad muffler. In tractors

with cabs, only 8 percent of those studied exceeded 90 decibels at full throttle with the windows closed. Opening the back window caused 42 percent of the tractors with cabs to exceed 90 decibels in a farmer's ears.

Symptoms that would indicate the need for ear protection include:

- Ringing in the ears
 - Hearing that is temporarily worsened by equipment exposure, then "comes back."
- Ear protection can't undo previous hearing loss, but it is especially important for people who already have experienced hearing difficulties, Holt said.

Preventive measures can keep a nuisance hearing loss from progressing into an impairment," he said.



Improve your soil by applying Martin's quality Hi-magnesium or Hi-calcium agricultural limestone.

Call your local Martin Limestone dealer or call Blue Ball, Pa.

(800) 233-0205
(717) 354-1370

**Profit
from fall
lime application**



TRUCKLOAD SALE

of Citrus Florida Fruit,
Fish, Oysters and Shrimp
Melvin R. Petersheim
375 Old Dam Rd.
Christiana, PA
1 mile east of Nickel Mine
Dec. 23 7-7
Dec. 24 7-4

FABRIC

**INVENTORY
SALE**

- Everything In Store..... **10% Off**
- Lots of fabric.. Reduced To **\$1.75 yd.**
- Muslin..... **75¢ to \$1.00 yd.**

Holiday Hours:

Close At 3:00 Dec. 24; 3:00 Dec. 31
Closed Christmas
& New Year's Day

WEAVER'S DRY GOODS
108 W Brubaker Valley Rd.
Lititz, PA 17543 717-627-1724