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Center.

Beginning and Retiring Farmer Workshop, Donohoe Center, Greensburg.

Tractor Safety Training, Lehigh County Ag Center, Allentown,

Northeast Pa. Landscape Management School, Holiday Inn, Bartonsville, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

York Co. Beekeepers, Extension Office, 7 p.m.

Perry County Holstein annual meeting, Madison Grange, Loysville, 7:30 p.m.

Central Susquehanna Valley Turf, Ornamental Meeting, Brynwood Banquet Center, Lewisburg

Friday, March 3

Dairy MAP Finance Module, Berks County Ag Center, Leesport, also March 10.

Maryland Cattle Industry Convention and Trade Show, Sheraton-Inn, Hagerstown, thru March 4. Pa. DHIA Records Workshop, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 12:30 p.m.

Maryland Holstein state meeting and banquet, Westminster, Md. Monroe/Carbon Counties Sweet Corn School, West End Fire Hall, Brodheadsville, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m

Saturday, March 4

Philadelphia Flower Show, Philadelphia Civic Center, thru March 12.

Fellowship of Christian Farmers Eighth Annual Outreach Luncheon, Wilhelm, Ltd., Westminster, Md., 12 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Maryland Holstein State Convention-Sale, Westminster, Md.

Butler County annual meeting, Bonanza Steakhouse, Lyndora. Wayne County Dairy Day, Honesdale High School, 9:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Butler County Holstein annual meeting, Bonanza Steakhouse, Lyndora, Noon.

Sunday, March 5

Maple Sugaring Festival, Hashawha Environmental Center,

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Westminster, Md., noon-5 p.m. Monday, March 6

Beef Production in West Virginia, Ebersburg Extenion Office, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Soybean Management meeting, Lebanon Valley Ag Center, 1

Luesday, March 7

Lancaster County Dairy Day Part II, Farm and Home Center. Ornamental Pesticide Management meeting, Lebanon Valley Ag Center, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

"Leaving the Dairy Business?," Montgomery County, 4-H Center, Creamery.

Tri-County Soybean meeting, Shippensburg, 8:30 a.m.

Schuylkill County Crop Clinic, Morgan Auditorium, Penn State Schuylkill Campus, Schuylkill Haven, 9:30 a.m-3 p.m.

'The Rural Entrpreneur," Shiloh Presbyterian Church, St. Mary's, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

1995 Crops Clinic/Penn State Coop. extension, Student Community Activity Center, Penn State Schuylkill Campus, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Western Pennsylvania Turf Conference, Pittsburgh Expo Mart,

Radisson Hotel, 8 a.m. Bedford County Holstein annual meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 8

Pennsylvania Potato Growers Institute Meeting, Willow Valley Resort and Conference Center, Willow Street. Also March

Regional Greenhouse meeting, Richland Mall, Johnstown.

Dairy Map MFS Workshop, Lancaster County Farm and Home Center. Also March 15.

Westmoreland MFS Workshop, Westmoreland Extension Office. Also March 15.

Fumigation Meeting, Lebanon Valley Ag Center, 7 p.m.-8 p.m. Dairy Day Huntingdon and Blair Counties, Alexandria Fire

Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 9 Lancaster County Holstein Club

Farm tour, starts at Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 8 a.m. Somerset County Holstein annual meeting, Rockwood Fire Hall, Rockwood, 7 p.m.

Dairy Grazing School, New Holland. Also March 16 and 23. Mercer MFS Workshop, Mercer County Extension Office. Also March 16.

Worker Protection Standards Meeting, Lebanon Valley Ag Center, 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Franklin, Adams, and Cumberland Beef Producers Meeting, Lighthouse Restaurant, 7:30 p.m.

Lancaster/York Tree/Small Fruit meeting, Rutter's Restaurant, East York, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Labels/Pest Control, Dover Young Farmers, high school ag class, 7:30 p.m.

Mid-East UDIA meeting, Minster, Ohio, Knights of Columbus Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Lancaster County Fruit Growers Association Banquet, Country Table Restaurant, Mt. Joy, 6:30

Cecil County Dairy Day, Calvert Grange Hall, Rte. 273, 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Dairy Grazing School, Harvest Drive Restaurant, Intercourse. Also March 16 and 23.

Pa. Beef Exposition, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg, after 4 p.m. Also March 10, 11, and 12.

Tractor Training Safety, Lehigh County Ag Center, 4184 Dorney Park Road, Allentown, 7:30 p.m.

Northeast Pa. Landscape Management School, Holiday Inn, Cartonsville, 9 a.m.

Lancaster County Holstein tour to Chester County. Leave Farm and Home Center, 8 a.m.

Sheep Management Meeting, Extension Office, York, 7 p.m. Somerset County Holstein annual meeting, Rockwood Fire Hall,

7 p.m. Northeast Farm Credit Ag outlook conference, Mansfield University, 12:30 p.m. and Country Cupboard, Lewisburg, 6:30

Friday, March 10

Pennsylvania Beef Expo, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, through March 12.

New York Farm Bureau's Spring Conference, Holiday Inn, Holidome, Rochester, NY, through March 11.

Berks County Dairy MAP, Berks

Editorial Reply

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4-H and FFA shows and should be required to notify any open shows in which he plans to participate that he has been penalized in 4-H/FFA due to illegal activity. Each Livestock Show Committee should investigate all rumors of questionable actions and should try to keep abreast of any form of abuse.

I'd also like to make a few comments on 4-H and the show ring in general. First, I'd like to state my qualifications. My wife and I raised four children who entered 4-H as soon as they were old enough and continued in it to the maximum age limit. All four are now mature adults. My wife and I both were (and still are) 4-H leaders. Our family was extremely fortunate in winning the PA Farm Show steer show with champions, reserve champions, and the last year with champion and reserve from the family herd. Our two oldest children spent a lot of time in what you might call the lower end of the class standings. The younger children "hit the jackpot" with winnings. Why? Raising cattle was a trial and error, learning experience for our entire family. But once we got our act together, it clicked. We never purchased any high-priced breeding stock. We did buy good quality cows, but not at extremely high prices. We raised our own replacement heifers and our own herd sire and of course we showed the animals that we bred and raised. That's satisfaction and excitement.

We also fitted our own cattle. Some of our kids were good showmen and fitters and some were mediocre. But all four worked hard and were dedicated and did the best they could for their ability. We still show breeding cattle in the open shows and we have won our fair share of championships. In the 1995 PA State Farm Show, we had the Supreme Champion Bull over

So what's the secret? 4-H is a 50/50 deal. 50% is the animal. 50% is the child. Neither can do it all. Of course, you do need a good animal to start with. So breed the best that you economically can. Don't pin your hopes on high-priced cattle. Start early with a calf. Feed it right. Groom it and train it the best that you can. If possible, make 4-H/FFA part of a family/parent/ child relationship. Put your heart and soul into it and give it your best shot. A lot of people think you need an expensive calf. Play the lottery if you wish, but be aware of the odds of winning. And winning is not everything. You should not have that as your only goal. Go for it, but if you don't make it, don't be depressed. Many real winners have never gotten the purple ribbons or stood near the top of the show ring. But look at all the parent/child/family relationships, friends, maturity, and leadership that 4-H and FFA bring. Ribbons, trophies, and money can't buy that.

I have spent over 50 years around 4-H and the show ring. I've seen a lot. I still get tense and yes I do jump and holler if we win. That's excitement. But we also learn to lose. And I admit sometimes it hurts a little until I reflect on life and our family and all our blessings. That's what 4-H is all about.

Mylin Messick, Messick Farms Middletown

County Ag Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Mid-East UDIA meeting, The Barn, Smithville, Ohio, 9:30

Susquehanna County Dairy Day, Elk Lake High School.

Pa. DHIA annual meeting, Days Inn, State College.

Saturday, March 11 Professional Shearing Clinic, T & R Center Sheep Unit, through

> March 12. Sunday, March 12

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Cattlemen's Workshop Set

The Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association presents a cattlemen's production workshop at noon Wednesday, March 1, 1995, at the Leesport Farmer's Market, Dr. John Comerford, Penn State extension beef specialist, will discuss the topic "How Much is a Bull Worth?" In addition, Dr. Lynn

Animal Hospital will discuss current health topics for Pennsylvania cattlemen.

The program is sponsored by the membership of the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association with cooperation from Penn State University and the Pennsylvania Livestock Marketing Association.



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