

Help! Down here. On the floor. Buried by this pile of paper that slid off my desk.

It was inevitable. The pile of unsolicited promotional, advertising, plain old general "junk" mail rolling in here has finally reached dangerous proportions. There's at least a whole tree's worth of paper strewn over top of me. Let's see what's here as we dig out!

Catalogs — they tend to turn a person black and blue from their size. Like the two — yes, two — fat catalogs from an ag supply firm halfway across the country, who apparently got our name the same place most of this other stuff originated from. Purchased mailing lists. This one offers everything from reflective tape to farm footwear to dust respirators.

Others market anything from diesel motor parts to CD's to underwear to computer software to van supplies. Van supplies? It came in my name and I don't own a van. Please send trial sample van — teal blue, preferably.

Alfalfa planting time is just weeks away. Even without a calendar, you could figure that out from the mailbox. Likewise for farm equipment sale time. If the numerous lists stuffing the mailbox here don't offer quite the exact piece you have in mind...

well, you can FAX in for an even longer list.

For the dairy herd in the barn, we receive shipments regularly of what might best be considered computer dating lists. Otherwise known as bull proof sheets, sire summaries, daughter comparisons — all the up-to-date information one needs to match up the genes of the mother and father to get a perfect offspring. Which will probably turn out to be a set of twins, bull and heifer, in which case the heifer, 98 percent of the time, through Nature's weird practical jokes, will not reproduce.

Most fun of all junk mail, though, is the get-money, spend-money pieces. No less than five "pre-approved" credit card applications are here in this stack. Other credit card mailings promise frequent flier miles for using them, insurance against their theft; one even offers a generous loan to pay them off. At an interest rate of 18.99 percent, maximum allowable no doubt.

"Are you prepared to live 15 years or more without a paycheck?" queries one large, squarish, envelope from an insurance firm, junk mail worth a good laugh for farm wives used to working without a "paycheck."

"Free preview, free gift, free

\$50 cash," promises another, selling cookbooks. Check the fine print — the \$50 offer is good only to the first 50 sendbacks received. Trust me, yours won't be one of them.

Really, really mouth-watering are the glossy pieces enticing us take a trip to someplace warm? "Sample Tahitian Treats!" ... "Escape the Winter Chill on Florida's #1 Airline." And a personal invitation to join the "Voyage of the Glaciers." Glaciers? Try me about mid-July.

Most irritating personally of all the junk mail in the stack is one offering "protection" for the computer, and which comes in the form of a bill. One has to look very carefully to see that it says "application."

Since there seems to be little one can do to stop all this waste of trees to bury us under tons of unsolicited advertising junk, those of us who use newspaper and waste paper for bedding cattle can adopt that ever-popular "if you can't lick 'em, join 'em" approach.

Keep that junk mail coming. It soaks up lots of manure.

## York Garden And Flower Show

YORK (York Co.) — The York Garden and Flower Show will be held Thursday, February 23 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, February 24 from noon to 9 p.m.; Saturday, February 25 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, February 26 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Two buildings of flowers, plants, gardens, garden ideas, and 60 exhibitors will offer a variety of products and services related to garden and outdoor living areas.

About 8,000 square feet of space will be devoted to large display gardens, installed by landscape contractors and garden centers.

Seeds, spring bulbs, herbs, and perennial plants will be for sale.

### Lebanon Seeks Dairy Promotion Contestants

LEBANON (LEBANON CO.) — Contestants are needed for Lebanon County Dairy Promotion Positions for Dairy Princess, Little Miss, and Dairy Maid positions will need to be filled in June.

Prospective dairy princesses must be between the ages of 16 and 24, live in Lebanon County, and be

Experts will be on hand to discuss tree and lawn care, and professional landscape designers will be available for questioning.

Free professional seminars will be offered throughout the four days. Subjects range from herbal gardening to perennials, and from designing entryways to landscape lighting and aquatic gardens. Workshops will cover working with dried flower arrangements, introduction to bonsai, and designing decks.

Admission is \$4 for adults and \$1.50 for children ages 10 to 15. Parking is free. The York Fairgrounds is located on Carlisle Ave., Rt. 75, south of Rt. 30.

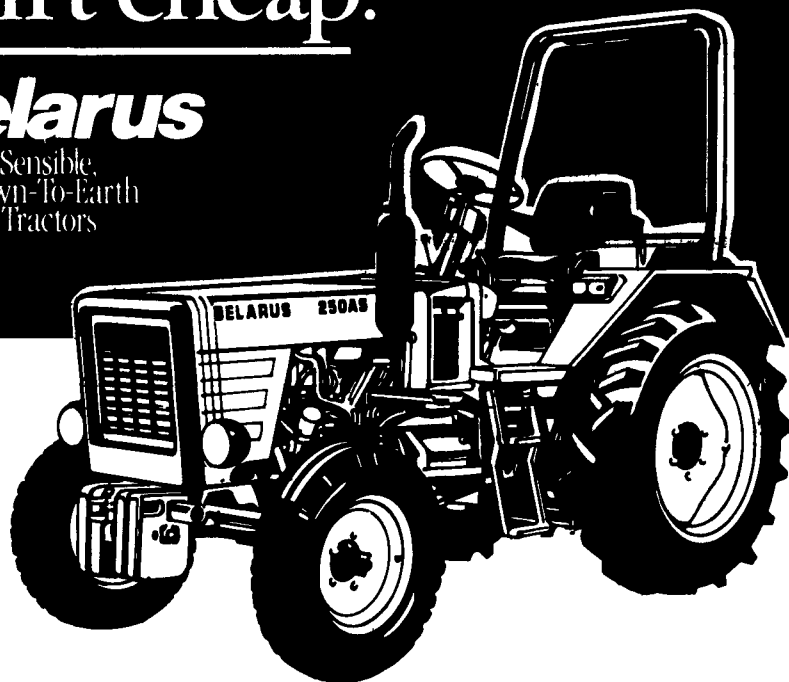
the daughter of a dairy farmer, herdsman or manager or the daughter of a dairy industry employee. Dairy maids should be between 13 and 16 years of age. Little Miss contestants need to be between 4 to 6 years of age.

For more details, call Annette Buck, coordinator, at (717) 867-5278.

## These tractors run dirt cheap.

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#### PENNSYLVANIA

##### ROVENDALE AG & BARN EQUIPMENT

RD 2, Box 210  
Watsontown, PA

##### ANDERSON TRACTOR SALES

1415 Main St.  
Jacobus, PA 17407  
1-800-457-5705

##### LUBINIECKI WELDING & EQUIPMENT

RD 2, Box 160  
Meadville, PA

##### MARSHALL MACHINERY, INC.

Route 652, RR 4  
Honesdale, PA

#### MARYLAND

##### SCHROCK FARM EQUIPMENT

Route 1, Box 2568  
Oakland, MD  
301-334-9060

##### ANDERSON TRACTOR SALES

4600 Bredlenbaugh Lane  
(Off 12200 Manor Rd.)  
Glenarm, Md.  
410-592-7422

##### STARKEY FARM CO.

Rt. 213, PO Box 250  
Galena, Md.

#### NEW YORK

##### BROWN'S TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT SERVICE, INC.

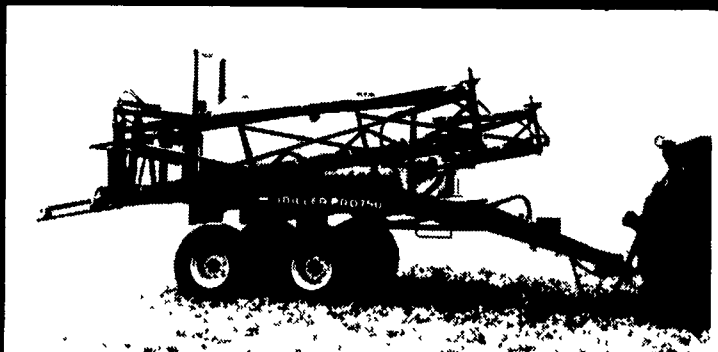
RR 2, Box 11B,  
Jackson Hill Rd.  
Bonnville, NY

#### VIRGINIA

##### BEVERAGE TRACTOR

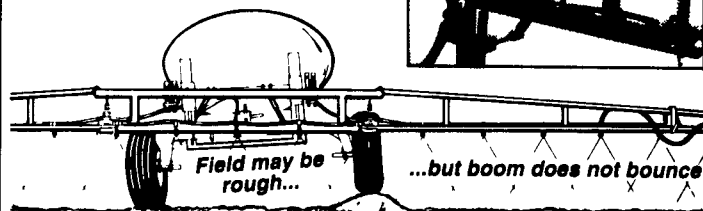
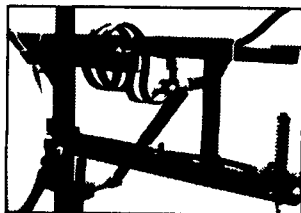
Rt. 340 South  
Stuarts Draft, VA  
800-296-3325

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**Belarus** Sensible, Down-To-Earth Tractors