


**"It's Showtime"**  
by  
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Dairy and Animal Science  
Coach, Penn State Livestock Judging Team



**SHOW RING ETHICS**

I recently reviewed a copy of the "Show Animal Care & Handling Guide" compiled by the Animal Industry Foundation, Arlington, Va.

The preface to this compilation, the first two articles listed in the table of contents under "National Guides & Programs" and the "1996 Pennsylvania Farm Show Code of Show Ring Ethics" warrant consideration as we prepare for our upcoming Pennsylvania Farm Show.

The preface to the "Show Animal Care and Handling Guide" reads as follows:

*"Youth livestock programs have long been considered model programs for the public to gain a better understanding of American agriculture.*

*"Well-attended by families far removed from the farm, state fairs and livestock expositions offer the public an excellent opportunity to see our food production systems in action.*

*"Youth involved in agricultural programs have been perceived as the industry's future leaders, as well."*

This is no more readily apparent than at the annual Pennsylvania Farm Show, where the vast majority of spectators are far removed from the farm and look to us for information and assistance.

The "Show Animal Care and Handling Guide" lists two specific national guides: "The National Show Ring Code of Ethics" as presented by the American Livestock Show and Rodeo Managers Association, Fort Worth, Texas, and the "National Code of Show Ring Ethics" as stated by the International

Association of Fairs and Expositions, Springfield, Mo.

These two codes provide the foundation for careful analysis of the "1996 Pennsylvania Farm Show Code of Show Ring Ethics" found on page 14 of the Pennsylvania State Farm Show Premium List.

The "1996 Pennsylvania Farm Show Code of Show Ring Ethics" has as its preface the following: "The State Farm Products Show Commission has developed a Code of Show Ring Ethics to curtail unethical, deceptive and fraudulent show ring practices."

Some definitions follow.

**UNETHICAL:** Not conforming to accepted and especially professional standards of conduct.

**DECEPTIVE:** The act of deceiving, or causing to believe an untruth.

**FRAUDULENT:** Characterized by, based on, or done by trickery or cheating.

The Code has been reprinted for your review. It is certainly worth our time for all of us to review the rules and policies before arriving at Farm Show.

Sources of information used in this article, addresses where you can write or phone numbers to call, include:

- "Show Animal Care & Handling Guide," Animal Industry Foundation, 1501 Wilson Blvd., Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22209, phone (703) 524-0810.
- "The National Show Ring

Code of Ethics," American Live Stock Show and Rodeo Managers Association, P.O. Box 150, Fort Worth, TX 76101, phone (817) 877-2400.

• "National Code of Show Ring Ethics," International Association of Fairs and Expositions, P.O. Box 985, Springfield, MO 65801,

phone (417) 862-5771.  
• "Pennsylvania State Farm Show Premium List," Farm Show Complex, 2301 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408, phone (717) 878-5373.

(Turn to Page D3)

# Grant Program Seeks Interested Farmers

**CHARLOTTE HALL, Md.** — The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland is looking for interested farmers to participate in a demonstration program established to help southern Maryland farmers learn more about alternative agriculture enterprises.

The program's goal is to assist farmers by providing "seed money" for on-farm demonstrations and applied research projects, and to determine the feasibility and profit-making potential of new agricultural enterprises. Any farmer within the southern Maryland region is eligible to submit a proposal for consideration.

Grant requests should be

between \$500 and \$1,000. Requests for more than \$1,000 will be considered based on the merits of the proposal and the availability of funds.

Alternative agriculture project areas include aquaculture, field crops, floriculture, forestry, horticulture, livestock, turf production, seminars, networking groups, and marketing or feasibility studies.

The deadline for applying is Dec. 29.

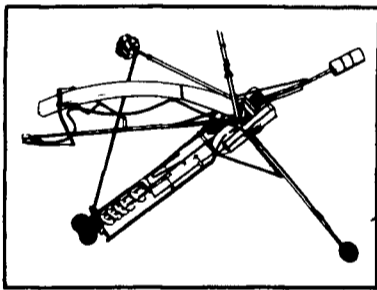
To receive a copy of the grant application or for additional information about this program, contact Candy Walter, agricultural specialist for the Tri-County Council, at (301) 884-2144 or 870-2520.

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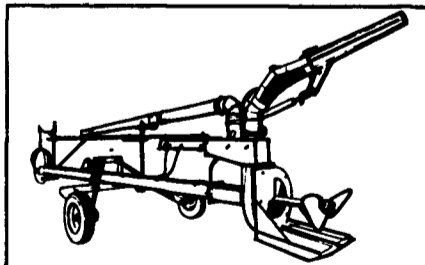
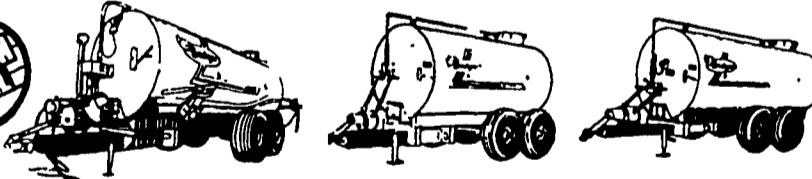
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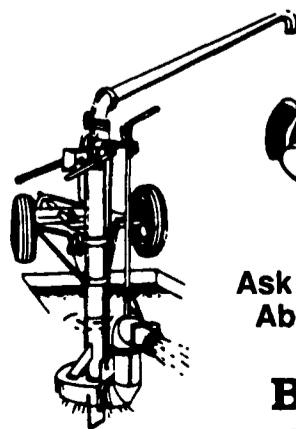


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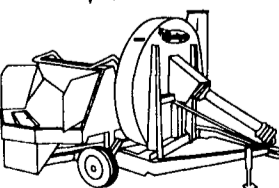
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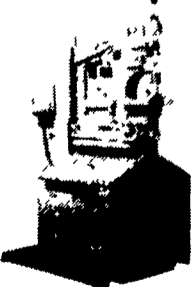
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