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- Availability of feeder lambs is limited.
- Traditional markets are limited.

The best way for Pennsylvania farmers to compete in this market is to buy local feeder lambs, utilize cheap feed sources (home-grown forages or crop residue) and, most importantly, develop local markets (niche or direct).

Horse Boarding Facilities

If you are to have a successful horse boarding operation, your facilities should make a favorable impression on your clients. For the comfort and convenience of your clients, you should provide ready access to clean restroom facilities, a telephone for use in emergencies, and sufficient space to store tack and equipment.

The services you provide will determine the type of facilities you need for boarding horses. Site selection and the arrangement of facilities require careful planning. Your top priority should be the safety of horses and people. Other important considerations are cost, efficiency, flexibility, maintenance, and local zoning codes.

Housing can be as simple as three-sided sheds to protect horses kept outdoors. Open sheds should face away from the prevailing winds. Provide enough space to minimize the chance of injury. Timid or less aggressive horses can become trapped in small, en-

closed areas or corners. The recommended space for horses in loose housing is 90 to 150 square feet per animal.

Individual box stalls are commonly used in boarding facilities and are preferred by many horse owners. The minimum stall size for most light horses is 10 feet by 10 feet, but 12- by 12-foot or larger stalls are better. All interior stall surfaces should be durable, free of projections and sharp edges, and easy to clean.

Sanitation, comfort, ease of cleanup, and safety are the primary factors to consider when choosing floor and bedding materials. Tamped clay and stone screenings are common surfaces for floors. Concrete or asphalt flooring is acceptable when used with rubber mats and traditional bedding, such as straw, wood shavings, sawdust, and shredded paper. Bedding must be free of harmful substances, such as black walnut shavings, which can be highly toxic to horses.

Proper ventilation is critical to prevent respiratory problems and protect the health of stabled horses. Well-ventilated barns allow a continuous exchange of air to maintain proper air quality and humidity and reduce odors. Sufficient ventilation usually can be achieved with proper placement and use of windows, doors, vents, and louvers. Forced-air ventilation systems may be necessary in horse

barns that do not have sufficient natural ventilation.

Is Cattle Feeding For You?

Cattle feeding in Pennsylvania has been a fairly stable business. In the past 35 years, the number of cattle on feed on Jan. 1 has ranged from 75,000 to 89,000 head.

On Jan. 1, 1995, about 80,000 cattle were on feed in Pennsylvania, or one percent of the U.S. total. The cattle fed are a mix of beef breeds, crossbreeds, and Holsteins or dairy beef.

Pennsylvania beef packers slaughter about three percent of the nation's slaughter cattle. These packers supplement their slaughter needs by bringing in slaughter cattle from the Midwest.

Cattle feeding is a high-risk business. During some years, an operation may not recover out-of-pocket costs. Entry into the cattle feeding business has few restrictions.

Although facilities range from small lots with a few head to modern facilities with more than 50,000 head, there are economies of scale in cattle feeding.

The cost of feeding per animal drops as the number of animals in the operation increases. Because of the high risks and the economies of scale that favor larger operations, beef-feeding enterprises are not as well adapted to small-scale and parttime farms as are beef cow-calf operations. In addition, less land is required for a cattle feeding operation than for a cow-calf enterprise.

Master Gardener Symposium Set

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The third annual Penn State Master Gardener Symposium is scheduled for Saturday, March 16, at the Farm and Home Center.

Designed to service both novice and professional gardeners, recognized horticulture experts are featured: Holly Shimizu, chief horticulturist and assistant director of The United States Botanic Garden; C. Dale Hendricks, noted plant propagation expert and co-founder of North Creek Nurseries; Gordon Hayward, noted Northeast landscape designer and author of "The Garden Path"; and J. Robert Nuss, professor of ornamental horticulture and woody ornamental expert from Penn State University.

The all-day event costs \$35, which includes speakers' fees, up-

to-the-minute gardening informational handouts, lunch, and refreshments. Registration deadline is March 11.

Seating is limited and registrants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Five hour-long presentations will further your knowledge on how to select or propagate, plant and care for trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals whether you are landscaping an entire yard or creating a small garden. Each speaker will allow ample time to answer your questions.

The symposium is sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners of Lancaster County. Call the cooperative extension office at (717) 394-6851 for information or for a registration form.

National Legislative Conference Set

GETTYSBURG (Adams Co.) — The 1996 National Legislative Conference of the Adams County Farm Bureau will be held Wednesday and Thursday, March 6-7, at the Capitol Holiday Inn, Washington, D.C.

Congressional spokespersons and members of the National Legislative Committee will be attending the conference to meet with U.S. Congressman William Goodling to discuss agricultural issues before Congress.

The members of the committee

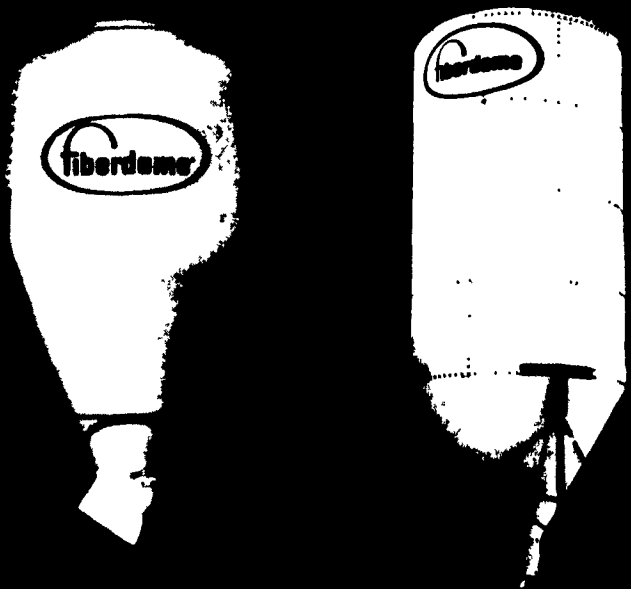
will meet with Goodling at his Washington office and be host to a breakfast the following morning, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. A special reception and dinner will be held Wednesday with a legislative guest speaker.

Representatives of the legislative body will discuss the results from attending the sessions at the Adams County Farm Bureau Annual spring meeting to be held Thursday, March 28, at the York Springs Community Fire Hall.



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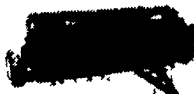
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SOIL COMMANDERS

The New Brillion Soil Commanders take Residue Management to the next generation of soil conservation efficiency. The Soil Commanders are versatile tillage tools designed to meet the needs of the mid-size farmer who uses a 150-200 H.P. tractor. One of the keys to the machine's versatility is that it uses interchangeable shank legs and individually mounted disk assemblies instead of a disk gang. This makes possible a machine with disk assemblies on the front and rear of the frame with chisel plow or deep-ripper shanks on 15", 24", 27" or 30" spacings.



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