


**FARM CALENDAR**

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School, Hidden Meadow Farm, Souderton, 5 p.m.-8:30 p.m., thru May 7.

Wednesday, May 7

Thursday, May 8

Friday, May 9

Saturday, May 10

Problem or Unbroke Horse Clinic, Penn State University Ag Area, State College, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. thru May 11.

Western Pa. Sheep and Lamb Sale, Mercer 4-H Park.

Capital Area Beekeepers' Assoc. Short Course, Dauphin County Agricultural and Natural Resources Center, Dauphin, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 11

Mother's Day

Monday, May 12

Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, noon.

Tuesday, May 13

Wednesday, May 14

Eastern Region FFA Leadership Conference, Ephrata High School, Ephrata, 1 p.m.-8 p.m.

Thursday, May 15

New Bolton Center Lecture: Introduction to the Llama, New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, 7 p.m.

Pa. Fair at Phila. Park, Bensalem, thru May 26.

Friday, May 16

Saturday, May 17

Children: A Kaleidoscope of Opportunity, Lebanon Career and Technology Center, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Mercer County 4-H Market Lamb Weigh-In, Mercer 4-H Park.

Idlewild Ruritan Plow and Field Day, Bridgeville, Del., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; raindate May 24.

Pa. Emu Farmers Association Annual Spring Seminar, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.


**FARM FORUM**

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filled by another (ironically by former Secretary of Agriculture Boyd Wolff).

The Secretary's forced resignation not only affects his position as our Commonwealth's agricultural leader, but also as Penn State Trustee. Therefore, I will cast one of my votes for Charlie. Perhaps other friends will find it appropriate to do the same.

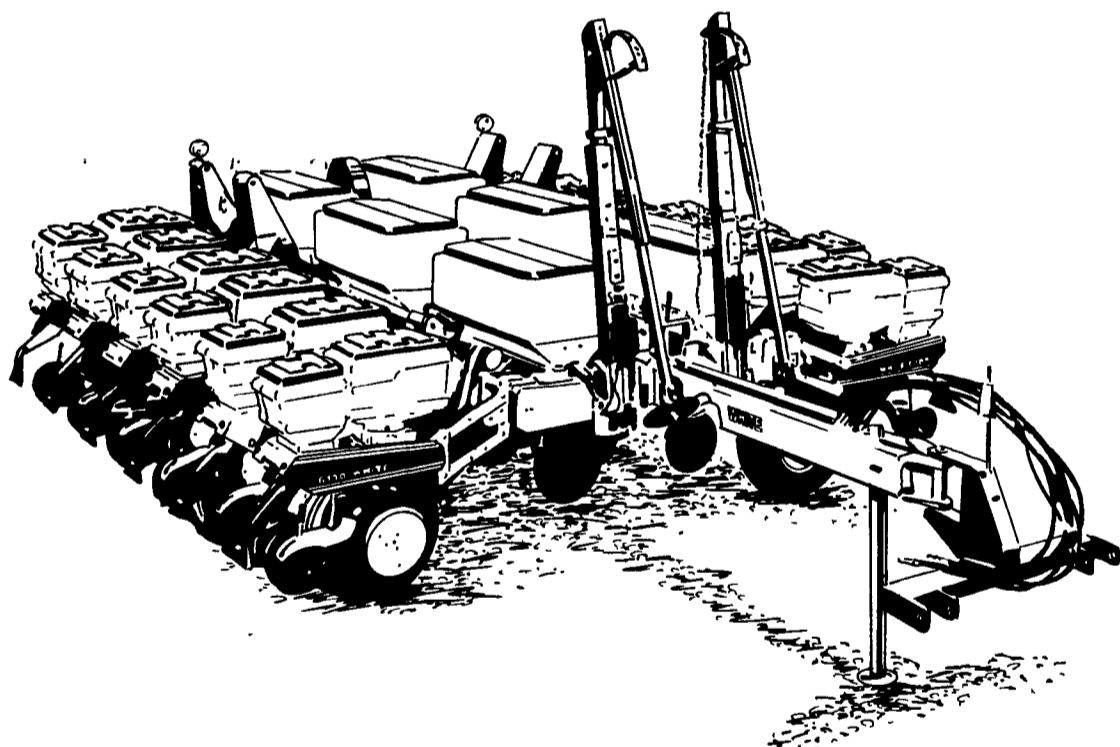
Kerry L. Golden

Editor:

After having read considerable accounts about the demise of Secretary of Agriculture, Charles Brosius, I thought perhaps you would like to know how an ex-Lancaster County poultry farmer looks at the situation. On April 5, '97, I was one of perhaps three-hundred people to attend a breakfast at a large restaurant in Mt. Joy when Gov. Tom Ridge was the speaker. He gave a rather long but excellent speech where he kept emphasizing his ideas for a new Pennsylvania.

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He further stated that agriculture is the leading industry in the Commonwealth. Most of the legislators from the County were in attendance, most of whom I know personally. It was my first experience with meeting the governor personally, and I was impressed with his desire to improve many aspects of our state's problems. He discussed a wide variety of topics from the court system, environment, rules and regulations of and for agriculture and many others.

On Monday, April 7, many people were shocked to hear that the governor had asked for the resignation of Secretary Brosius. Most of us do not know the reason and would not care to venture a guess. I, for one, do not know Mr. Brosius. He appears to be a fine gentleman, however, there must be some serious misgivings about his position. Please let's look at something else.

As my wife no longer is physically able to shop for groceries, this now falls on my shoulders. This affords an opportunity for me to do the grocery shopping. As a rule I go to at least two or three large super markets within two miles of our home and even to a little Amish mom and pop grocery a few miles away.

What I have noticed for years is that Lancaster County and/or Pennsylvania chicken is not available at any of these large stores. Weis, for instance, has somewhere close to eight or nine stores in our county and perhaps 180 or more in the state. I have asked the managers of these stores "Why no local chicken?"

They just shrug their shoulders. SKH managers say to me, "We have specials 'sometimes'." What answers! I have told them as a Lancaster County farmer, "I'm insulted."

Please be informed that Weis, Redners, Giant, and SKH almost exclusively handle chicken from south of the border. Think of the millions of people in this state that are buying out of state chicken instead of Pennfield or Tyson. How can this be? Whose fault is it? I blame the Secretary of Agriculture for allowing this to happen. Isn't he responsible for the quality of food we eat? Isn't he the one who Lou Ann Good said in the April 15 issue of Lancaster Farming received a standing ovation? For what? Has he been helping the Pennsylvania poultry producers to sell more of their production in Pennsylvania stores? I, for one, think not. How do you suppose he would like it if none of his mushrooms were sold in local stores? Then what would he do with his 40 employees? Perhaps there was a very good reason for him being terminated, to which I would consent. Isn't it more important to put Pa. chicken in local food stores than to pass a new dog law?  
Arthur L. Reist  
Lancaster