

Every morning, as the sun was rising, you could count on it. Every evening, as the sun was setting, you could count on it. Again.

A honking sound would echo across the meadow. Moments later, the honking would sound overhead, as the pair of geese soared over the yard. Once they cleared the house, the big birds would begin "braking" and then descend into one of the contoured strips of cropland that circle around our north hillside. There, the pair would graze for some length of time on the early grasses pushing up in the fields.

Before the sun shinnied up too high in the sky, or complete darkness settled over the meadow, the pair of Canada geese would again take off, make a quick circle overhead and glide back down to the pond.

This went on for several weeks, with such dependability one could almost set a clock by their intra-farm flights. In between their dawn/dusk field

trips, the two geese lounged on the pond bank and grazed on the lush growth in the meadow. Actually, most of the time it was the female grazing, while the big gander kept watch.

Often, our lone resident goose, permanently disabled from making lengthy flights, hung around nearby the pair. As the male of the breeding pair became increasingly territorial, the inevitable squabbles erupted. Our single bird would take

refuge back with it's "flock" — the cows — where he/she spent most of the winter.

March came and went. The pair showed little more than passing interest in the mid-pond nesting platform. Last year, that nest was full of eggs and the hatch already underway by the last week of March. And usually, the endeavor gets started at the very latest during the first week of April. But the warm, balmy, early April came and went. But the geese showed little interest in anything but gorging on grass.

We began to wonder. Was there some problem here? Did the geese know something about the season we didn't?

I glanced at the pond frequently during those early days of the month. Nothing.

Finally, one morning the goose returned from their flight to begin rooting around the dry grasses on the platform, while the gander patrolled the sur-

rounding water. Next day, same performance. And again, the next. But, a week later, the nest was still unoccupied.

By then, pretty chilly weather had returned. If the goose was laying eggs, at least they were staying well-chilled.

Late last week, on a trip around the ponds to check out the growth progress of the shrubs and trees he had planted a year earlier in the pond-wetlands area, The Farmer made a surprise find.

"We have a goose nesting," he announced one evening last week. "Down in the Frog Pond."

The Frog Pond is a shallow, swampy area, where we often walk at dusk on warm evenings to hear the frog chorus sing. ("Singing" is a polite word for high-decibel croaking racket.) A few years ago, he had added a tire-nest site for our wild waterfowl, but got no takers. Now, unexpectedly, it was occupied by a stranger.

And by what we have reason to believe is a long-awaited mate

for our lone-injured, resident goose.

He also noticed that the regular nesting site in the big pond was finally occupied. One day we had no nests, the next there were two. And a pair of mallards cruising the ponds as well.

We drifted by on the four-wheeler the next day for a peek at the Frog Pond's new feathered resident. She slid off the nest and came hissing at us. We hastily departed.

One gander is now patrolling one pond, defending his turf. The other, likewise, on another pond. Several times a day, splashing water, flapping wings, and irate honkings announce aerial attacks from one side against the other. If nothing else, the territorial defenses are a source of irritation to the great blue heron which dines here almost daily (or did before the nest squabbles) on our fish and frogs.

That oughta' give those frogs something to croak about.

JAMES & CLARK, LLP Attorneys-At-Law

Mark L. James James R. Clark Brian S. Black

Estate Planning for Farm Families

- Wills, living trusts and tax planning
- Charitable giving

Business Planning for Farm Families

- Farm partnerships and corporations
- Succession Planning/Farm Transfers

Real Estate

- Tax-free exchanges of real estate
- Real estate settlements
- Tax planning for sale of conservation easement

Estate Settlements

- Prompt and courteous settlement
- Tax planning during settlement

1907 Division Hwy
Ephrata, PA 17522
(717) 355-2800

CRAFT-BILT

CONSTRUCTION, INC.
MANHEIM, PA
(717) 653-4023

Pre-Engineered Buildings
Lifetime Design Warranty

LESTER

Dairy Self-Storage Equine Remodeling

ZIMMERMAN MFG. CORP.

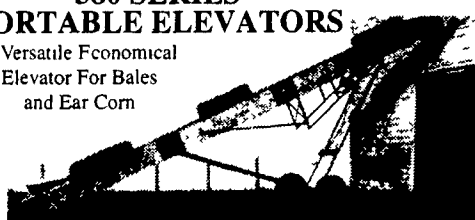
125 King Court/
Hollander Rd.
New Holland, PA 17557
(717) 354-9611

Contact Us For
Literature Or
The Dealer
Nearest You!

WELL BALANCED, RUGGEDLY BUILT FOR MANY YEARS OF TROUBLE FREE SERVICE

380 SERIES PORTABLE ELEVATORS

A Versatile Economical
Elevator For Bales
and Ear Corn



880 SERIES BALE ELEVATOR AND MOW CONVEYOR



A Full Line Of EFFICIENT BELT DRIVE FANS

Exhaust Fan
w/Housing & shutter
24", 30", 36", 48"

36" & 48" Portable
Circulating Fans

ZIMMERMAN CUSTOM BUILT UTILITY TRAILERS



RT SERIES

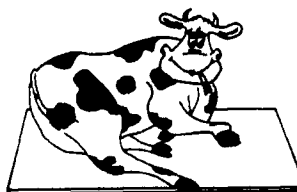


FRT SERIES

RT and FRT Series Trailers Available In 5000# thru 12,000# GVW
We Also Build Other Models, Sizes, and Capacities. Call For Information

Pasture Mat[®]

The Golden Standard
In Cow Comfort



Why Pasture Mat?

Pasture Mat is tightly stuffed with rubber and sewn every 4" to prevent shifting
Proven most durable top cover
Least abrasive top cover on the market
Fits any stall
Proven performance

The Rewards

- Better Cow Health
- Reduced Leg Injury
- Reduced Swollen Hocks
- More Lactation Per Cow - More Milk
- Reduced Bedding Costs
- Pasture Mats Often Pay For Themselves Within 6 Months

For details and installation with over 5 years experience, call:

Petersheim's Cow Mattresses

117 Christiana Pike (Route 372), Christiana, PA 17509

U.S. Pat No
5653195

610-593-2242

Ask For Merrill or Sam

GOOD FOOD OUTLET STORES



See Our Original Line Of
Golden Barrel Product
Plus All Kinds Of Beans,
Candies, Dried Fruit,
Snack Mix, Etc.
At Reduced Prices

Processors Of Syrups, Molasses,
Cooking Oils, Funnel Cake Mix,
Pancake & Waffle Mix &
Shoofly Pie Mix

If your local store
does not have it...
SEND FOR FREE BROCHURE

SPECIALS FOR APRIL

SORGHUM
16 oz. **\$3.40**

PANCAKE MIX
2 lb. **\$1.19**

CORN OIL
1/2 GAL. **\$2.99**

GOOD FOOD INC.
W Main St Box 160
Honey Brook, PA 19344
610-273-3776
1-800-327-4406

GOOD FOOD
OUTLET
3614 Old
Philadelphia Pike
Intercourse, PA 17534
(Just east of Kitchen Kettle Village)

L&S SWEETENERS
388 E Main St
Leola Pa 17540
717-656-3486
1-800-633-2676



Accepted • We Ship UPS Daily

