

even early sire summaries." "I'm not exaggerating when I

say that we've got a drop-in replacement for a small-say Lancaster or Maryland sized affiliate-that will fit on the General Manager's desktop with no

Do Not Miss This

Meeting

shelf hardware and software. Not emulation cards. Not expensive gimmicks that make the PC think it's a mainframe-this runs on a Windows NT or Windows 2000 type system." What about larger affiliates? Boyer is equally

confident: "With processing equipment costing less than \$5000, our capacity planning says you can handle 750,000 cows per month, comfortably. That fits the largest DHIA's in the US-probably the world. In Pennsylvania, our daily processing time went from 6 1/2 hours on the mainframe to 16 minutes, on average, on the NT machine."

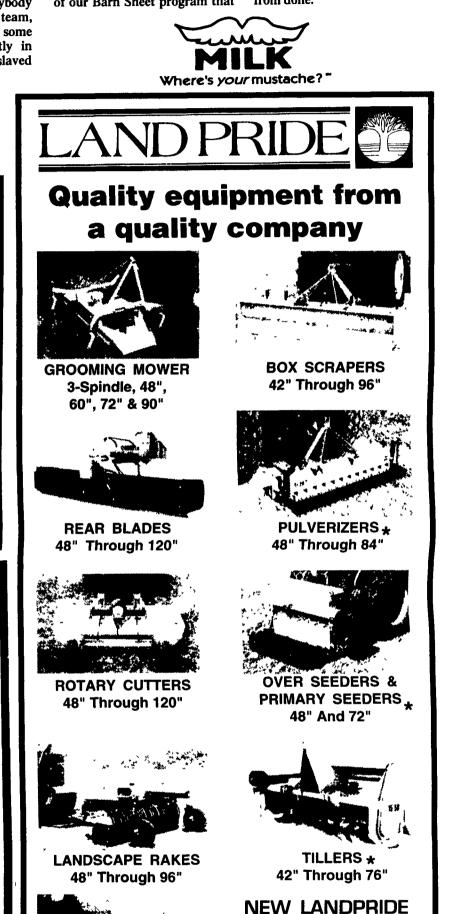
So what's next? "We need to focus on a number of needs specific to our internal operations first." Says Boyer. "It's important to give credit to everybody on Pennsylvania DHIA's team, because everyone has had some hand directly or indirectly in this effort. As the DRPC slaved

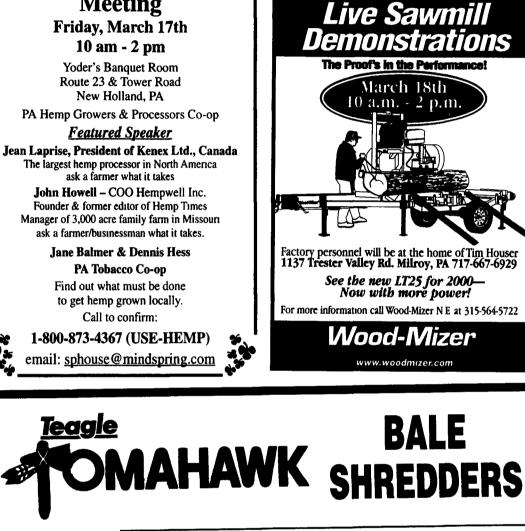
Lancaster Farming, Saturday, March 11, 2000-A33

over the mainframe conversion and the first release of Barn Owl 2000, our technicians had to pick up a certain amount of slack, and we've also neglected some of our efforts in our lab, where-once again-people have helped the development team by putting their own time in to balance the load. So those folks have also been an important part of our efforts to improve the DRPC. To address their needs we'll have a Window's version of our Barn Sheet program that

works more closely with Barn Owl and adds some new data entry features this spring. We'll be moving all of our technicians to Internet access at the same time, and we'll provide a complete workflow tracking system to our lab management as well as technicians, field managers, and interested farmers."

Even with the installation of a brand new computer system behind them, it sounds like the PA DHIA DRPC's work is far from done.







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