

## ♦ FARM CALENDAR ♦

(Continued from Page A10)

tion, Livestock, and Recreational Uses, Arena Restaurant, Bedford.

Conservation 2000 Celebration, Rossback Family Farm, Davidsonville, Md., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Performance-Tested Bull Sale, Eastern Ohio Resource Development Center, Caldwell, Ohio.

Satellite Videoconference: Economic Aspects of Forestland Stewardship, Cambria

County extension office, Ebensburg, 9 a.m.-noon.

Franklin County Calf Sale, Cumberland Valley Show Grounds, Chambersburg, 7 p.m.

Penn State Dairy Expo, Ag Arena, University Park.

4th Annual Benefit Auction for 4-H Therapeutic Riding Program, Lancaster County, Bareville Fire Company, Leola, 5 p.m.

**Sunday, April 16**

**Monday, April 17**

Centre/Clinton County Swine Handling and Health Workshop, Walker Township Building, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Southeast Regional Christmas Tree Growers Meeting, Penn State Schuylkill Campus, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 18**

Beef Management Short course, Hoss's Steak and Sea House, West York, 6:30 p.m.

Cover Crop Twilight Field Day, Montgomery County Geriatric Center Farm, 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Blair County Milking School, Central High School, Martinsburg, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Sheep Shearing School, Nelson Farm, Linonier, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., thru April 19.

**Wednesday, April 19**

**Thursday, April 20**

Pasture/Grazing Kickoff Meeting, Carriage Corner Restaurant, Mifflinburg, 10 a.m.

**Friday, April 21**

Earth Day Festival, Packer Park, Carbon County, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., thru April 22.

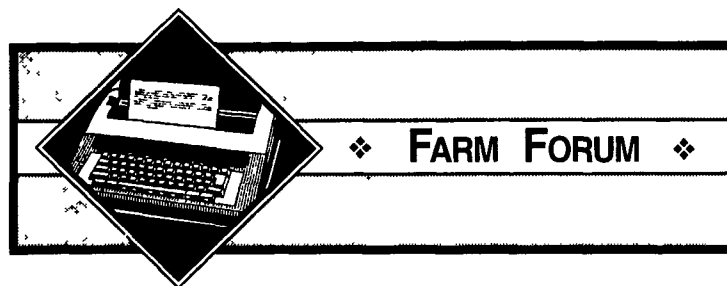
**Saturday, April 22**

Butler/Mercer County Beef Tour to Ohio, departs from Mercer County extension, 7:15 a.m.

Earth Day Picnic, Hill Creek State Park, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Sunday, April 23**

Easter Sunday.



## ♦ FARM FORUM ♦

Editor:

I am writing to draw public attention to a well known, but often overlooked portion of the Lehigh-Northampton County population—the farmer. As a college student in Washington, DC, I have little opportunity to appreciate the dedication and determination this manner of living entails. I do, however, have the misfortune to listen to complaints regarding overpopulation, the environment, labor, . . . basically with anything there is to talk about, you will find someone to complain about it in Washington.

People are grossly misinformed regarding the agricultural industry. After traveling to Seattle to attend the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference last November, I realize that a large percentage of the general population feels the farmer is out to make a profit by capitalizing on the environment and public health. What people do not understand is that farmers allow us

to enjoy all the wide-open spaces when we "take a drive to the country." The farmer is the one who fills our grocery stores with fresh produce, bacteria free dairy products and meats, boxes upon boxes of grains—virtually any desirable, consumable bit of food can be found for a mere fraction of the cost of food in foreign countries. The farmer makes this all possible and yet he is attacked by a media boasting that genetically modified organisms are going to attack the world like a giant killer tomato from a low budget horror movie.

Genetic engineering allows for greater productivity at a lower cost to you and the producer. It allows for less pesticide usage in the fields, which by the way, makes our food safer for us to eat, not poisonous as some groups would have us believe. Less farmland is needed to yield a larger crop, leaving more wide-open spaces for everyone to enjoy, such as our National Parks and Forests.

My purpose was to create a bulletin to the non-agricultural family who by no fault of their own, just does not realize what lengths are attained to put a meal on the table of millions of American and millions more outside our borders. American farmers feed the world with scientifically proven methods that also enhance the ever-important U.S. economy. Agriculture is the number one industry in Pennsylvania. I believe the general population deserves to be informed about the mainstay of the American System. Supporting our country means supporting our farmers. You have the opportunity to do so every time you take a bit, but you could do a little more. The Lehigh County Farm Bureau will hold their annual Spring Banquet on Saturday, March 25, 2000, at the Seipstown Grange Hall at 6 p.m. The banquet is open to the public and all are welcome to attend and support the great American institution of agriculture. To order tickets for the dinner, please call 610-767-5026.

Victoria G. Schantz  
Zionsville



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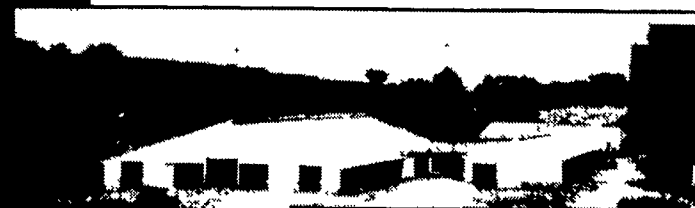
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