

Ida's Notebook

by
Ida Risser



This is a special article for me! You see it has been 30 years this month that I began to write for Lancaster Farming newspaper. At that time it was published in Lititz, but now it is stationed in Ephrata.

I do not believe that I ever missed a week even when I was traveling through Europe and later to Hawaii. That adds up to 1,560 articles. It has become a weekly routine to sit down and write to all the Lancaster Farming subscribers.

I'd venture to say that not many writers have continued for so long. My first article appeared in the issue of October 17, 1970, which had 28 pages in two sections. The September 30, 2000 issue had 192 pages in four sections.

Zane Wilson was the managing editor and he visited me after I sent him an article that I thought would be of interest to the readers. I wanted to call the column "Down On The Farm" as our dairy farm "Manheim-dell" is "down" along the Conestoga River. But, he thought

"Ida's Notebook" was a better title as it would cover a multitude of topics. I guess he was right. Ever since I was 17-years-old, I have written a diary every single day. Two drawers are overflowing with my diaries.

The 1970 Lancaster Farming paper was in black and white. It contained information on cow shows and cow sales. But, there was only one advertisement for a public sale of farm machinery. Today there are many, many advertisements as I surely know when I type the "Sale Reports" for the paper.

Both Farm Women groups and Granges were given prominence in the 1970 paper. Two articles were also written on an FFA Convention in Kansas City and one in New York City by the 600,000 member FHA.

Over the past 30 years, I've shared a lot of good and bad happenings in my life with the readers. I have always enjoyed writing, and somehow the paper and I have grown older together.

Rita Mae Brown Will Greet Her Fans At The 55th Annual Pennsylvania National Horse Show

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Author Rita Mae Brown is an accomplished equestrian who loved the Pennsylvania National Horse Show as a child.

Brown, now Master of Foxhounds for the Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Club in Virginia and a polo player, returns to the show for the first time since childhood on Hunt Night, Monday, Oct. 16. Her fans are invited to meet her from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the setting in which she feels most comfortable — surrounded by horses.

Brown has written 26 books,

many of them set in the fox hunting country near her Afton, Virginia home. Her credits also include a half dozen screenplays and more than a score of teleplays, several of which received Emmy nominations. Her most recent book, "Pawing Through the Past," was published in April, 2000.

After meeting fans and signing autographs, Rita Mae Brown will spend the remainder of Hunt Night enjoying the Pennsylvania National Horse Show and perhaps presenting a trophy or two.

The Pennsylvania National Horse Show is the country's largest multi-breed indoor horse show, with more than 1,400 top horses and riders from nearly every state and Canada competing. The show runs Oct. 12-21 at the State Farm Show Arena, Harrisburg.

General admission tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12 and seniors, except for Saturday, Oct. 21 when all tickets are \$10. For tickets or a free brochure, phone (717) 975-3677 or visit www.panational.org.

South African Youth Explore The 4-H Movement

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — A contingent of 15 South African teenagers and adults is attending the 2000 Big E to learn about the American 4-H movement. The 11 youths, aged 13 to 17, and four adult teachers and agricultural judges are residents of Mpumalanga province, located in northeastern South Africa. Sponsored by South African Airways, the group is exploring the 4-H system in the United States and hoping to establish an exchange program between the two countries for youth in agriculture.

In addition to attending the numerous 4-H shows and competitions that take place during the fair, the eight boys and three girls are competing in beef and dairy showmanship con-

tests using the livestock of American 4-H participants. The Big E also arranged for the group to visit a large dairy farm in northwestern Connecticut and tour the University of Connecticut School of Agriculture.

One of the secondary goals is to set up a reciprocal exchange program, so that some of the two nations' children can attend and compete in each other's agricultural shows. International competition is always a good thing.



Latigo 4-H

At its September meeting, the Latigo Club discussed what topic club members want to use for their Educational Equine Exhibit at the 4-H State Horse Show.

Junior Weekend of the Penn-

sylvanian National Horse Show will be Oct. 14-17. Horse judging training sessions are this fall, and the Horse Council Awards Banquet will be Friday, Nov. 3.

The club's next meeting is Oct. 20 at Hideaway Hills at 6 p.m.

What's The Difference Between Apple Juice And Apple Cider?

Surprisingly, there's no good answer in differentiating between apple juice and apple cider.

In a country that regulates the "standard of identity" for everything from ketchup to jams and jellies to evaporated skim milk, there's no such standards for

apple cider.

Some people say apple cider and apple juice are just the same — they're both 100 percent juice pressed from apples. If you line up behind that reasoning, the term "cider" is just a marketing ploy, aimed at people's prefer-

ence for the beverage during the crisp days of autumn, perhaps after a hayride or during a Halloween party

Some people say that cider contains more apple pulp and other solids, resulting in a slightly thicker beverage with, perhaps, a cloudy appearance. That might be what people think of when they think "cider," but there are no official federal regulations stating that.

Besides, most of what's sold as apple juice in the United States is "clarified" juice — filtered to remove all sediments. That means that there's also such a thing as unclarified juice — that's "juice," not cider.

In England, "cider" is an

alcoholic beverage — juice allowed to ferment. We call that "hard cider" in the states.

Just a few years ago, consumers might have thought that apple juice was heat-treated to be shelf-stable, while cider was the raw juice — no heat treatment, no preservatives, nothing. But outbreaks of E. coli 0157:H7 in both untreated apple juice and cider in recent years have led to some safety regulations regarding juice and cider processing.

While unpasteurized juice and cider may still be sold, they must contain a label saying: "Warning: This product has not been pasteurized and therefore may contain harmful bacteria that can

cause serious illness in children, the elderly, and persons with weakened immune systems."

It's important to remember to follow labels regarding refrigeration, even for pasteurized products. Pasteurization isn't sterilization. Proper pasteurization will eliminate E. coli 0157:H7 in juices and cider, but tougher strains of bacteria might survive in small numbers. Proper handling is essential to assure the safety and quality of the product.

Chow Line is a service of The Ohio State University. Send questions to Chow Line, c/o Martha Filipic, 2021 Coffey Road, Columbus, OH 43210-1044, or filipic.3@osu.edu.

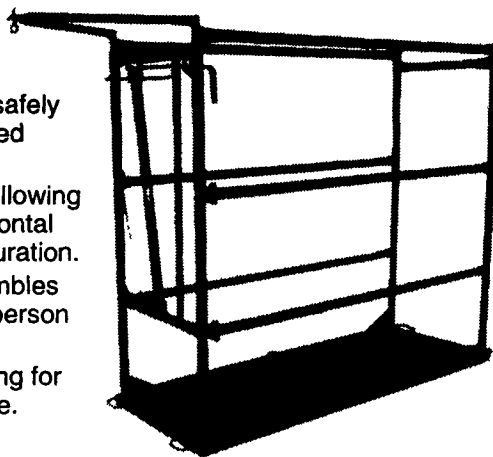
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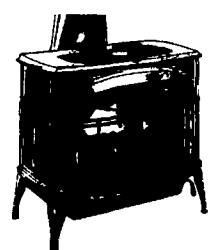
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Weaver Elected Angus Delegate

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Barbara Weaver, New Holland, has been elected as a delegate to the 117th annual meeting of the American Angus Association, Nov. 13 in Louisville, Kentucky, reports Richard Spader, executive vice president of the American Angus Association.

Weaver, a member of the

American Angus Association with headquarters in St. Joseph, Missouri, is one of 341 Angus breeders who have been elected by fellow members in their state to serve as a state representative at the annual meeting. Representing 44 states and Canada, the delegates will participate in the business meeting and elect a new president, vice president and

five directors to the American Angus Association board.

The annual meeting is held in conjunction with the annual convention and banquet, and the Super Roll of Victory Angus show, Nov. 12-14, during the North American International Livestock Exposition.

The American Angus Association has more than 35,000 active members and is the largest beef breed organization in the world.

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