

# Farming Along Major Highways

(Continued from Page A1)

traveled has also steadily increased, with a peak of more than 240 billion miles traveled in July 2000.

To deal with this increase in the number of vehicles on the road, Beam has taken several precautions. Since he raises small grains, he uses tractor-trailers to move the harvested crop from the field to its final destination. A wood shavings delivery service on the side has helped the Beam family purchase better trucks which are also used in the production side of the operation.

He also takes into consideration which fields he can plant higher volume crops in.

"We won't plant wheat in some places because you can't get in to get the straw off of there," he said. "I've turned some land that was offered to me to rent down because of the traffic situation."

They also run escort vehicles equipped with yellow flashing lights whenever possible.

"When we run on real narrow highways, we'll give the escorts

a red flag to stop traffic when we need to."

He also makes sure his equipment is in top shape, is clearly marked with slow-moving vehicle signs, and that his insurance policies are always up to date.

"We're constantly updating our liability policy just in case something happens," he said. "Each piece of equipment is listed separately on the policy."

Even with taking every precaution, Beam still has had his share of conflicts with traffic, mostly because of impatient drivers.

"With most accidents, there are impatient people behind us. They try to pass and run into the machinery or into the ditch," he said.

Most recently, a teen-ager ran a stop sign and hit his corn planter.

"It demolished the vehicle," said Beam, "but the planter wasn't damaged."

In the past, Beam has also received traffic citations for traveling too slowly or disrupting the flow of traffic.

"A policeman once told me that if I get more than three cars behind me, I have to pull over and let them pass. I try to be reasonable and pull over when I can, but if I pulled over whenever three cars got behind me, I'd never get anywhere."

Beam is not the only farmer in the state to have been pulled over by a policeman. Charles Kalinowski, Tunkhannock, Wyoming County, also had an eye-opening experience early this summer as he traveled along a well-traveled highway with a tractor and sprayer.

"I had to travel a two-mile stretch. When the policeman saw me, I had 10 cars behind me, but they had just caught up to me."

Up until then, Kalinowski didn't realize that you could receive a ticket for traveling too slowly.

"There's a law out there," he said. "Having that slow-moving vehicle sign on the back of my equipment warns people that I'm going slowly, but it doesn't give me the right to hold up traffic."

Kalinowski appealed the ticket and the citation was later repealed.

But the challenge remains. Farmers work more and more ground that is located farther and farther away from their

homesteads, making travel on roadways a necessity.

Trooper Linette Quinn, public information coordinator for the Pennsylvania State Police, agrees that farming along the highway presents many challenges.

"Traveling on the roadway can be frustrating for farmers. We ask them to be extra careful for their own safety whenever they're traveling between farms. We also ask them to give the courtesy of getting off the road and letting people pass," she said.

Quinn noted that Section 3364 of the vehicle code specifically says that a driver of a vehicle "who is traveling at less than the maximum posted speed and at such a slow speed as to impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, the driver shall, at first opportunity, when and where it is reasonable and safe to do so, and after giving appropriate signal, drive completely off the roadway and on to the berm or shoulder of the highway."

Besides urging farmers to follow the vehicle code as closely as possible, she also offers these tips to make driving on the highway safer.

"Make sure you can be easily seen," she said. "Make sure all your lighting equipment is working and that you have the triangles on the back. You should also make sure you have some mirrors. If there are a number of cars behind you, pull off the road as far as you can when it's safe to do so."

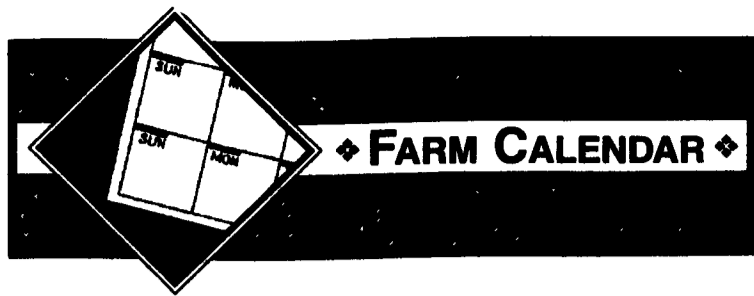
But the challenge of moving slow-moving vehicles on the highway remains.

"We're at a time in our society where everyone is mainstream. They're not looking for someone to slow them down," said Trooper Quinn. "People are always on the go, and when they're ready to get there, they want to get there."

For Bill Beam, traffic and encroaching development may take its toll.

"I hope there's enough here for me to farm out my lifetime, but if my boys want to farm, I'm not really sure what we'll do. We have no intentions to sell, though. We'll stick it out," said Beam.

If Beam could give one message to other drivers it would be this: "Have some patience!"



## FARM CALENDAR

(Continued from Page A10)

Waterford Community Fair, thru Sept. 8

West Alexander Fair, thru Sept. 8

**Tuesday, September 4**

Bellwood-Antis Farm Show, thru Sept. 8.

Claysburg Farm Show, thru Sept. 8.

Jamestown Community Fair, thru Sept. 8

Clarion County Pasture and Grazing Group meeting, Ken Weaver Farm, 7:30 p.m., (814) 782-0033.

Vegetable Grower Twilight Meeting, Schramm's Farm and Orchard, Jeanette, 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 5**

Luzerne County Fair, thru Sept. 9.

First Annual Farm and Family Showcase, Kentland Farm, thru Sept. 6.

Pa. Milk Marketing Board Public Hearing, Ag Building, Harrisburg, 2:30 p.m.

Field Loss and Barnyard Evaluation Workshop, Dauphin County Ag Center, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., thru Sept. 6.

Lower Susquehanna Basin, Planning For Our Future Water Needs, Hampton Inn, Manheim, 8 a.m.-noon.

American Dairy Association District Meeting, State of New

Jersey Soil and Conservation Office, Hackettstown, 7 p.m. **Thursday, September 6**

Prince George's County Fair, Upper Marlboro, thru Sept. 9, (301) 578-2598.

Midwest Pork Conference, Indiana State Fair Events Center, Indianapolis, Ind., thru Sept. 7.

Nittany Antiques Machinery Association Fall Show, Centre Hall, thru Sept. 9.

Forage Management Workshop, Everett, (814) 623-4800.

**Friday, September 7**

Damascus Community Fair, Damascus, Md., (301) 253-3198.

Thurmont and Emmitsburg Community Fair, Catocin High School, Thurmont, Md., thru Sept. 9, (301) 271-2104.

York Fair, thru Sept. 16.

Hay Creek Fall Festival, Morgantown, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., thru Sept. 9.

Lamb Pool, Troy Sales Barn, 9 a.m., sale 3 p.m., (570) 998-2505.

**Saturday, September 8**

Fiber Festival, hosted by Northwest Pennsylvania Spinners and Weavers, Two Mile Run Country Park, Franklin, (814) 694-2422.

Goat Nutrition Field Day, Cornell University, Ithaca, (607) 254-6024.

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## HIGH FIELD ANGUS

**September 21**

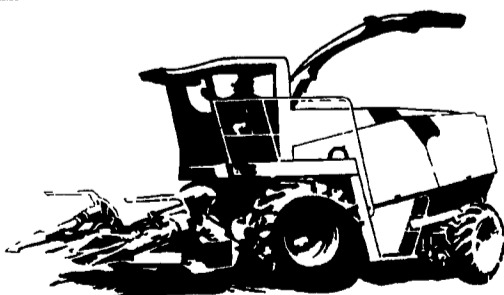
**Full Listing  
On Page B-46**

**Note: New area code**

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## FARM FORUM

(Continued from Page A10)

the survival of our co-op.

A merger at this time would not benefit the members of Maryland and Virginia. Working joint ventures would be acceptable. In my opinion, selling off assets and dissolving the co-op is better than a merger with Land O'Lakes, considering their treatment to members after

mergers. By dissolving our co-op, at least each member would control their equity assets and their own destiny!

Let's not bury the cow before she is dead.

Maryland and Virginia Producer  
Cynthia K. Goetz  
Mercersburg

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42 ACRES zoned agriculture consisting of 5 buildings, 2 baseball fields & 1 tennis court. 2-1/2 story 2- unit tenant farmhouse with living area. Approx. 2950 sq. ft. with 1-car garage.

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**Building #3:** Metal warehouse containing 7600 sq ft. for shipping & receiving. Overhead doors. Small office.

**Building #4:** 1 story block building, 3,000 sq. ft. shop & storage area.

**Building #5:** 2-1/2 story frame barn. Used as storage. 9200 sq. ft. Off-street parking for approx. 65 vehicles. Approx. 1300' of road frontage on Stackstown Road.

**OPEN HOUSE DATES:** Sat., Sept 8, 15, 22, 29, 12 to 2pm.

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