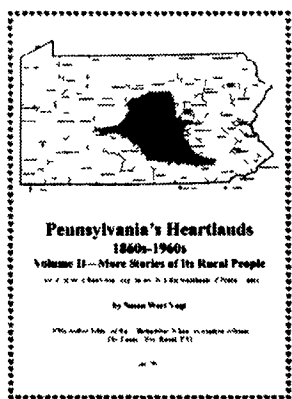




Books and magazines of interest to Lancaster Farming readers



ANDY ANDREWS
Editor
PENNSYLVANIA'S HEARTLANDS: 1860s-1960s, Vol. II, More Stories of Its Rural People, by Susan Wert Vogt. Desktop Editing Company, 2002, 161 pp., \$34. ISBN 0-9708901-1-7

There is something special, something dear, about rural living. Author Vogt captures that belief in this book about Pennsylvania's heartlands, the people, events, and places in the Pennsylvania's central and southeastern sections.

Through a series of The Times (Port Royal) newspaper columns over the years, Vogt has assembled a great collection of reminiscences, anecdotes, special places and people she's seen, along with lots of color photos and maps of the places she obviously holds very dear to her heart.

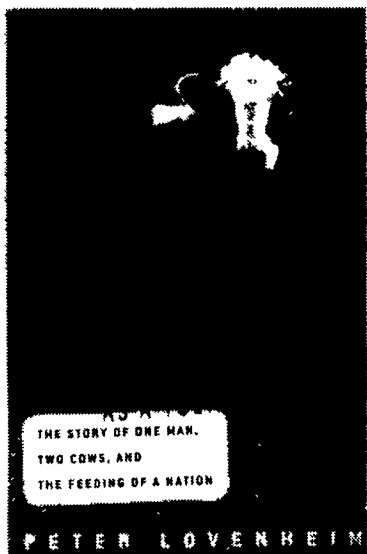
Juniata County is especially near and dear, with poems and stories about the special place it is.

(This reviewer recently returned from Atlantic City, N.J., and nothing compares to the beautiful rural environment we call home here in Pennsylvania. When you are away for a time, you certainly miss the pristine, rolling hills; the dapper countryside; and the farms and friendly folk that make up home.)

Included are tractor and

thresher shows, with color photos of equipment that stir the heart and mind. Readers will adore this book.

To order, call (717) 566-5700 or, for mail orders, send a check or money order for \$34 payable to Desktop Editing Company, 1 Scout Lane, RR3, Hummelstown, PA 17036.



PORTRAIT OF A BURGER AS A YOUNG CALF: The Story Of One Man, Two Cows, and the Feeding of a Nation, by Peter Lovenheim. Crown Publishing/Harmony/Random House, 2002, 269 pp., \$23.00. ISBN 0-609-60591-7

From the git-go, I am warning potential publicity department cover blurb-seekers: this book gives the wrong message. I don't recommend this book. This book is wrong, wrong, wrong. I dislike this book, and I will tell you why.

Actually, I started out to like PORTRAIT. Here was a man, a nonfarmer, who wanted to know what it was really like to raise a bull calf from birth to slaughter. To find out what really goes on at a farm. To see the truth, and nothing but the truth, for himself, and to share that with the non-farming readers.

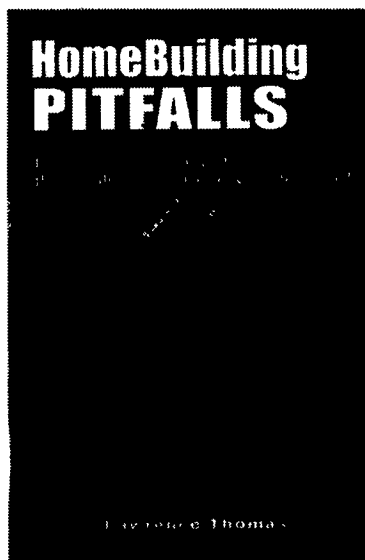
But my hopes were dashed against the rocks.

Here was a book that could have been shared with delight even with the farm families who want to know about the operations of Lawnel Farms in western New York State. Parts of this book delve into personal biography, at times rendering true-life stories about what farming is all about.

And yet, in the end... the end can and should be skipped. Read up to that point. I don't agree with what Lovenheim decides to do. The message he may pass onto the American public is horribly wrong. Most farmers will think it's wrong.

In the end, Lovenheim advocates vegetarianism. We don't need meat, he insists, we can live off soybeans. And look what happened to Linda McCartney, the deceased wife of the Beatles guy. The same people who wear leather belts and shoes, I presume.

So I want to praise parts of this book (again, parts, are you hearing me, blurb-takers?), and I can dash this book, in the same review. Lovenheim could have had us believing, he really could...but no cigar. I don't agree with what he finally decides to do in the end. Wrong, wrong, wrong. Horribly wrong.



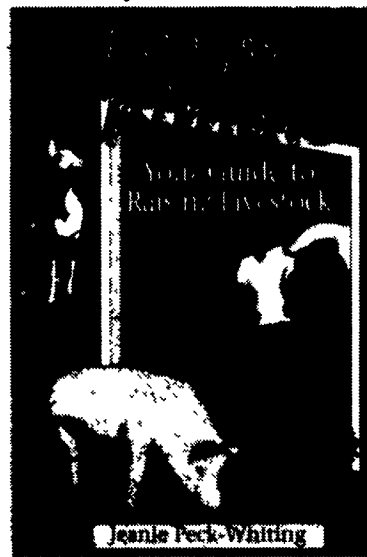
HOMEBUILDING PITFALLS: Insider's Guide To Getting The Quality New Home You Deserve!, by Lawrence Thomas. New Community Press, 2002, 214 pp., \$39.95. ISBN 0-9719550-9-3

Finally, a book I can recommend. HOMEBUILDING PITFALLS does just that — take you through some of the things you need to know in building and buying a house. This includes watching for sales tricks and deceptions, making sure the builder

follows the plans and contract, and all the things that could go wrong in between.

Consult this book before you build.

To order, contact New Community Press, 2692 Madison Road N-1, Number 263, Cincinnati, Ohio 45208, or e-mail NewCommunityPress@cinci.rr.com.



FARM ANIMALS, Your Guide To Raising Livestock, by Jeanie Peck-Whiting. Fox Mountain Publishing, 2002, 312 pp., \$18.95. ISBN 0-9716174-0-6

This straight-up, easygoing approach to learning how to raise livestock on the farm is a great tool for the young or beginning farmer and those who want to raise livestock on a small scale, such as for youth shows.

FARM ANIMALS shows us why "you don't have to own a lot of animals to have fun," as noted on page 39. "If I were going to recommend anything, it would be for you to start slow. Buy one or two animals, see how that goes. If it's enjoyable and it brings you pleasure or income, then build on it."

The book notes that Jeanie was born and raised in a farm environment. "She learned early on to respect and provide the best care for all animals," the book notes on page 271. "It has always been her belief that if you take care in the handling and management of your animals, you will be repaid three times over by the enjoyment the animals will bring you."

The book delves into the basics of caring for chickens, ducks, rabbits, goats, pigs, and cows. It even has scary farmyard stories, including the mean sow, the sows trampling accidentally on their young, pigs getting out of hand

(did you know that pigs can eat human beings whole, skin, bones, clothes, and all?), and other strange facts. She even shares her favorite recipes.

Contact Fox Mountain Publishing, Book Orders Dept., P.O. Box 1516, Tonasket, WA 98855, or on the Web at www.foxmntn-publishing.com.

RETRO RIDE, Advertising Art of the American Automobile, by Tony Swan. Collectors Press, 2002, 176 pp., \$39.95. ISBN 1-888054-62-X

Want to go back in time? Just peruse this huge, colorful, slick, coffee table-sized book literally jammed with four-color reproductions of old car ads.

We're talking old car ads, dating back to about 1923, and how the major car companies approached cars in the beginning as luxury items for the wealthy and famous, to a family vehicle full of fun and the latest technology through the '50s, on into the jet-setting cars of the early '60s.

The book sometimes shows that the more things change, in terms of how auto advertisers think, the more they stay the same...

Order from Collectors Press, Inc., P.O. Box 230986, Portland, OR 97281, or on the Web at www.collectorspress.com.

Manure Application Field Days Slated

FLEETWOOD (Berks Co.) — Three manure application field days sponsored by Penn State and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture are scheduled the week of July 29.

The first is scheduled for Tuesday, July 30 and is specifically geared for commercial and private manure applicators. The second and third days are open to all interested parties and are on July 31 and August 1. The first two events will be held at Greater Vision Farm in Fleetwood, Berks Co. The third day will be held at the Buser Farm in Yorkana, York Co.

The dates will be highlighted by demonstrations and hands-on activities. The agenda includes a phosphorus-index exercise, a soil compaction exercise, a manure application rate exercise, a soil pit demonstration, hand-held GPS exercise, GPS on field equipment demonstration and a variable rate application demonstration.

Speakers include local manure haulers, representatives from Penn State Dairy and Animal Science and Agronomy departments; cooperative extension agents; USDA-NRCS representatives; and USDA Ag Research Farm representative.

Five continuing education credits for certified nutrient management specialists will be available for those who attend the meeting.

A fee of \$10 to cover lunch expenses will be collected during registration. Participants are asked to bring a calculator. If you have questions, need directions or would like to pre-register please contact Robb Meinen at (814) 865-2987, or rmeinen@das.psu.edu.

Crop Research To Highlight Penn State Field Day

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences will reveal the latest advances in farming at its annual Crop Management Field Day, Tuesday, July 23 at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rockspring. Research into cultivation techniques, new varieties and pest management systems will be presented by college faculty.

"This is an opportunity for crop producers, ag industry folks, and others to see some of the research under way at the research farm," said Gregory Roth, associ-

ate professor of agronomy in the crop and soil sciences department. "They also can interact with Penn State crop specialists from various departments."

Research will be featured on four one-hour tours running sequentially from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Each tour will be conducted twice, and individuals will have an opportunity to attend all four tours.

The corn research tour will demonstrate hybrid testing for corn silage, polymer corn seed coatings, twin row corn planting techniques, and strategies for

evaluating hail damage effects on silage corn.

The tillage, Bt, and white mold tour will present research on zone till corn, Bt corn hybrids and their isolines, and white mold and weed management in soybeans.

The fertility and soil quality tour will highlight studies on pop-up and alternative starter fertilizers for corn on high phosphorus soils, as well as nutrient cycling and crop rotations and soil biological activity.

The weed management tour will focus on predicting weed

emergence with GDDs, spatial weed management, herbicide screening, and glyphosate and weed shifts.

The Larson Agricultural Research Center is located at Rockspring, nine miles southwest of State College on Rt. 45. The field day is open to the public; registration will be \$10 and includes lunch. Attendees can reserve a space by calling (814) 865-2543 or by sending e-mail to lac8@psu.edu. The day offers a total of four credits toward Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) certification programs for professional agronomists.

Pennsylvania Corn Stocks On Farms Down 46 Percent

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania's corn and oat stocks on June 1, totaled 25.2 million bushels and 2.0 million bushels, respectively, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS). At the

same time last year, corn stocks were 44.6 million bushels and oats stocks totaled 2.5 million bushels.

Corn stocks on farms totaled 21.0 million bushels, down 46 percent from the 39.0 million

bushels in 2001. Oat stocks, at 1.6 million bushels, were down 20 percent from the 2001 inventory of 2.0 million bushels.

Off-farm grain stocks were: corn — 4.2 million bushels, down 25 percent from 2001; oats — 428 thousand bushels, down seven

percent; barley — 310 thousand bushels, down 23 percent; wheat — 3.9 million bushels, down 36 percent from 6.1 million bushels in 2001; soybeans — 1.2 million bushels, up 10 percent from 1.1 million bushels in 2001.