

PFB Announces Rural Road Safety Week

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB), the state's largest general farm organization, reminds rural drivers that Rural Road Safety Week begins Monday and runs through April 13.

Various county Farm Bureaus will hold media events throughout the state to create awareness that farmers are on the roads with their large equipment at this time of the year.

"With spring planting season now under way, it is the ideal time to make drivers aware of the special precautions they should take when driving on rural roads," said PFB President Guy F. Donaldson.

Pennsylvania's House of Representatives passed a resolution designating the week of April 7, 2003 Rural Road Safety Week.

"Machinery, such as tractors, travels at speeds less than 25 miles per hour and are often wider than other vehicles. In addition, machinery operators often

cannot hear approaching traffic due to engine noise, therefore they are forced to rely totally on their vision and the skills of other drivers," said Donaldson.

Motor vehicle safety including the use of tractors and other machinery begins with courtesy. Machinery operators should drive on the shoulder of paved highways and other drivers should be patient and pass with care.

Here are some other tips to keep in mind when driving in rural areas:

- Anticipate that between April and November you will probably encounter farm equip-

ment at some point along your route.

- Watch for the slow moving vehicle emblem. When you see this emblem, *slow down*.

- Pass with caution.
- Don't assume the farmer knows you are there.

- Before you attempt to pass, blow your car's horn to signal to the farmer that you are there.

"The primary issue we want to call attention to with this campaign is to be courteous to all drivers on the road. A safe driver looks out for other drivers and potential hazards," said Donaldson.

NFU Asks For Hearings On GM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a recent letter to the House and Senate Agriculture committees today the National Farmers Union board of directors urged that additional steps be taken to safeguard crop production from contamination of biopharm and other genetically modified (GM) commodities.

"While we support the benefits that could arise from biopharm and GM crops, we also advocate caution in its growth as an industry," NFU President Dave Frederickson said.

The farm leaders requested hearings on the overall impacts biopharm and other GM commodities have on production agriculture.

Organizations Will Advocate Reforms

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — A half dozen state organizations, representing virtually every segment of Pennsylvania's economy, will join with Pennsylvania Farm Bureau during its 2003 State Legislative Conference to advocate reforms that will make health insurance more available and affordable in the commonwealth.

Leaders of the groups will participate at a news conference in

Harrisburg scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 8 in the Main Rotunda of the Capitol.

Several hundred farmers also

will be visiting the Capitol throughout the day to discuss other priority farm and rural issues.

New York Spring Carousel To Take Place April 11-14

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The New York Holstein Association's New York Spring Dairy Carousel will take place April 11-14 in Syracuse.

Last year's shows hosted 359 Holsteins, 97 Ayrshires, 45 Brown Swiss, 149 Jerseys, 34 Milking Shorthorns, and 83 Red and White Holsteins. Many of the winners went on to be near or at the top of their classes at the fall national shows. This year the Guernsey breed will add its Spring Show to the events mak-

ing this truly an all-breeds Carousel.

The New York State Holstein Association and its Breed and Promotion Committee has offered to set up farm tours for those attending the Carousel.

The state office will arrange a tour for an individual and/or group to the site of choice.

For a schedule of events or to request a tour, call (607) 273-7591.

Lebanon Holstein Night Aug. 8

NEWMANSTOWN (Lebanon Co.) — Donald Krall will host this year's Lebanon County Holstein Field Night on Friday, Aug. 8.

Krall is owner of Locust Ridge Holsteins, a herd of 65 registered Holsteins with a rolling herd average of 24,747 pounds of milk, 914 of fat, and 764 of protein. The breed age average (BAA) is 106 percent.

Krall is the breeder of Locust Emory Caleb. Her full sister, Cosmo, VG-87, is in the barn at Locust Ridge.

The field night will include a buffet style meal, sponsored by local agribusinesses, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Guests will have the opportunity to judge three classes of Holsteins between 6:30 and 8 p.m.

Directions to the Krall farm:

From Schaeffers-town, take Rt. 897 north to Flintville Rd., turn left and go to the first farm on the left.

From Lebanon, take Rt. 897 south to Flintville Rd., turn right and go to the first farm on the left.

From Cornwall, take Rt. 419 south to Flintville Rd., turn left and go to the second farm on the right.

For more information, call Jerry Musser at (717) 949-2868.

Penn State Conducts Public Conflict Workshop



LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — On Tuesday, a Penn State-sponsored workshop outlined strategies that community leaders can use to make constructive use of public conflict here at the Farm and Home Center. The workshop, attended by 15 planning commission members, school board officials, township board members, and agri-industry representatives was conducted by Tim Collins, extension agent, community and economic development, right, along with Winifred McGee, Lebanon County extension director. See more on the story in the editorial on page A10 this issue. Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

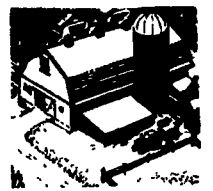
Here's something *Lancaster Farming* subscribers have been waiting for: the 2003 *Lancaster Farming Fair Guide* booklet, scheduled to premier May 24. Thousands of our readers count on *Lancaster Farming* to provide them with the latest fair news during the summer and fall season. You can look toward the fairs with this extensive directory, covering an eight-state region. Planned is a list of fairs and fair association news. Will photos of your family turn up in the book from fairs around the region? Check it out!

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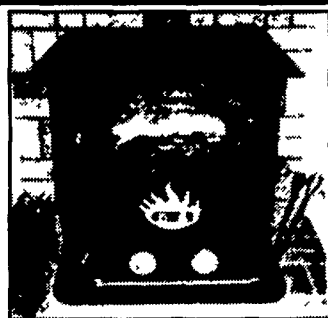
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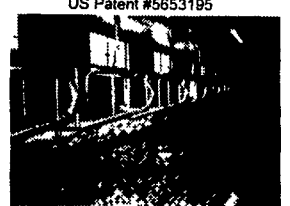


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