



Books and magazines of interest to Lancaster Farming readers

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor

THE PERILS AND PLEASURES OF DOMESTICATING GOAT CHEESE: Portrait of a Hudson Valley Dairy Goat Farm, photos by Julie Cahn and words by Miles Cahn. Catskill Press/Ruder Finn Press Inc., 2003, 116 pp., \$19.95. ISBN 0-9720119-5-1

Perhaps a long time ago, and what certainly seems (to the author of this book) far away, the pursuit of happiness included a leather goods factory in New York City by the name of Coach

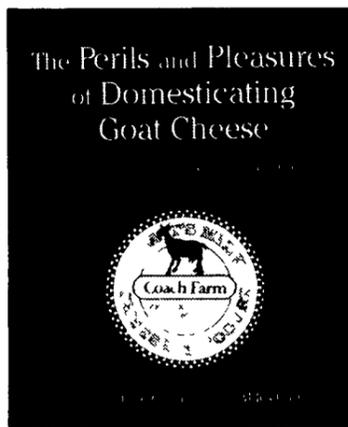
Bag. Coach Bag worked well for a time — but the owners simply thought that something, somehow in their lives, went missing.

In the fall of 1983, according to the authors, Miles and wife Lillian decided to purchase an abandoned farm in the Hudson Valley (Columbia County), a couple of hours from downtown New York. Why not make a go of it? Why not be farmers? Why not bring in a "couple of goats and start making goat cheese"?

There were successful Coach stores in New York and other cities, and even one in Paris.

Instead of the freedom and delights of living and working in

New York in the apparel/accessory industry, the authors decided to be "virtual prisoners" on their own farm, held "hostage by more than 1,000 goats." They sold the leather goods company to Sara Lee Corporation in 1985 to become goat farmers.



In the very humorous introduction, Cahn makes extensive notes on what would drive normally sane human beings to actually make a living at goat farming.

Along the way, we are given a sincere, no-holds-barred tour of

the thinking that went into the creation of Coach Farm Goat's Milk Cheese and Yogurt, and what the owners had to do to ensure that a large commercial farmstead could be successfully converted to a major goat cheese operation that direct-markets its products.

Seems they were successful!

The book notes the critical importance of growing quality hay, which translates to quality milk and cheese; construction of a complex of barns to accommodate the many hundreds of goats; the reproductive and milk generating process as a whole; a photo tour of the facility where the cheese is created; and, even more delightful, suggested serving of the best goat cheese.

"Perils" is a wonderful coffee-table book with great photos and well-written text, a true success story highly recommended for your farm shelf.

Order from Ruder Finn Press Inc., 1110 2nd Avenue, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10022, (212) 593-6420.

LIFE AND RHYMES OF THE AMISH, by Sharon E. Workman. Sharodan Educational Enterprises, 2003, 144 pp., \$12.95. ISBN 0-9717437-1-1

Workman has compiled a real treat of poems that speak of the lives of its many contributors — the students, family, and friends

of Flat Ridge Elementary School, a public school grades 5-8 located three miles south of Charm, Ohio.

What makes "Life and Rhymes" unique is that contributors include some of the 80 Amish students who attend. The poems recollect the typical daily chores, experiences, hopes, and dreams of the students and of the personalities who make up the community near Charm.

The book has lots of homemade art and feels more like a scrapbook of daily experience. You will enjoy it.

Order from Sharodan Educational Enterprises, 6529 Co. Rd. 201, Millersburg, OH 44654.

Farm Bureau Applauds PMMB Decision

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — The Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Boards (PMMB) recent decision to maintain the over-order premium for Class I milk at \$1.65 per hundred pounds of milk for the first six months of 2004 will help dairymen get through their struggle with low prices, said the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

"The long-term economic viability of Pennsylvania's dairy farms continues to be challenged by this prolonged period of less

than adequate milk prices. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau appreciates the board taking this action to help strengthen the states dairy industry," said Guy Donaldson, president of the statewide farm organization.

PFB's dairy specialist Joel Rotz said the PMMB conclusion was "the right decision for both producers and consumers, who all benefit when our dairy industry is stable." Rotz had testified that prices received by dairymen were expected to continue to be signifi-

cantly below their costs of production during the first half of 2004.

"Farm Bureau made it clear during its testimony that dairy

producers needs are as great as ever," Rotz commented. "The Milk Marketing Board deserves a thank you for recognizing the ongoing challenge our states dairy farmers face in maintaining their long-term economic viability."

Since 1988, PMMB has mandated an over-order premium be added to federal order prices for Class I (fluid) milk produced, processed and sold within Pennsylvania's borders.

The Jan 24 *Lancaster Farming Grower & Marketer* has scheduled a wealth of information for the eastern fruit and vegetable and related industries along with a special poster of farm markets in southeastern Pennsylvania

A preview of the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention Jan 27-29 in Hershey, will include an exhibitor map and complete schedule

Included in *Grower & Marketer* will be a component, *Lancaster Farming's AquaCountry*. Scheduled a feature on a fish hatchery in Lebanon County information from the Aquaculture Association annual meeting and other information valuable to the industry.



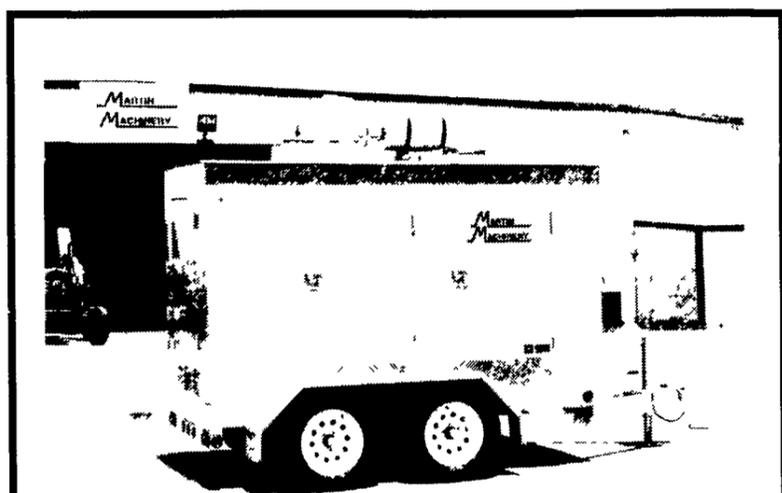
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