

From Where We Stand . . . The Fat's In The Fire

The fat is in the fire!

This old saying pretty well sums up the situation with at least one dairy in the state.

Sunnydale Farms, Inc. of Elizabethville has put a maximum — that's right, maximum — butterfat limit on the milk coming into the plant.

One county dairyman said recently, "We have been culling our herd for years and following a rigid breeding program to try to get our cows to produce higher testing milk, and now it looks like all that effort was in vain."

He went on to explain that his milk had to have a certain "minimum" butterfat content before the dairy would pay a bonus. There was never any talk about a maximum test. In fact many dairies suggested that farmers put on a few cows of the color breeds in order to bring the test up.

While this appears to be a purely local situation with only one dairy thus far, we believe it does point up a trend toward lower fats in food, which is a current fad throughout the country.

At least two dairies in the county said this week they have no maximum limits on butterfat test at present and have no plans to impose any such limits in the foreseeable future. Spokesman for both the local milk plants indicated that there is still a market for high quality milk, and it appears that the demand for this type of milk will continue.

In fact there is some feeling among dairymen that the demand for high testing milk may increase if and when the use of total solids testing becomes widespread.

We do not believe the fact that one dairy set arbitrary butterfat limitations on its producers is any cause for great alarm in the dairy industry, but we do believe it is another indicator of the trend toward blander and more mild flavored foods of all kinds. We also are quick to point out that the diet habits of the American consumer are regulated greatly by fads and notions, and the fickle public taste may very soon be demanding a richer, more satisfying substance in that glass of milk at the dinner table.

While we do not advocate a complete scrambling of our present method of evaluating milk and dairy animals, we do believe that the record keepers, dairy herd improvement associations,

and breeders would do well to put less emphasis on the butterfat produced and more emphasis on the total nutrients produced. We believe little good can come from striving to produce more of a product that is in excess supply and in a declining demand situation.

While we realize that butterfat and total nutrients in milk are very closely related, we believe more good would come to the dairy industry if more emphasis were placed on some criteria other than butterfat.

The trend toward less fat in foods does exist. Burying our heads in the sand and pretending that it does not exist will not make the trend go away. We might as well admit that the trend does exist and then try to do something to meet the demand.

At least that's how it looks from where we stand.

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The Garden Spot

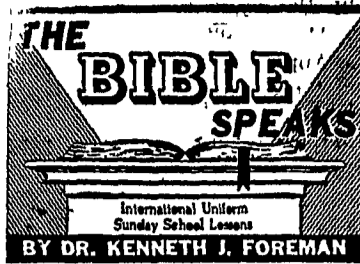
We came back to the Garden Spot after a week of camping in the Pennsylvania mountains with a new appreciation of the advantages of farming in Lancaster County.

When we looked at the little mountainside patches of corn and oats, and the hillside pastures with great rock ledges outcropping over most of the surface, we couldn't help thinking how much easier the jobs of plowing, planting and harvesting are in this beautiful area.

But the thing that brought the problem to us most vividly was the number of little vegetable patches near the houses. Even though the gardens were in very close range of the houses, each one had a high fence around it. By "high" we mean something over eight feet.

Not only do the farmers in the mountain areas have to fight a hostile topography and climate, they have to protect their crops from the deer which are so abundant in much of the state. They are beautiful creatures, but we hope Lancaster County farmers never find out how destructive a large deer herd can be in a field of carefully tended crop.

At least that's how it looks from where we stand.



Test of Faith

Lesson for August 18, 1963

Bible Material: Genesis 21 through 25.
Devotional Reading: Lamentations 3:55-58.

ONE of the strangest stories anywhere is the story of Abraham preparing to kill his only son Isaac and offer the dead body as a burnt offering to God. The deeper question is one which we shall not pursue here: Can we believe that the God whom Christ revealed to us would for any reason command murder of this sort? Or if He did not really mean it, what kind of God would perpetrate such a cruel joke? Many



Dr. Foreman Christians, when they stop to think about this, find themselves in a terrible dilemma; and so they take refuge in calling the story a kind of parable rather than literal fact.

A believing man's conviction

Let us come down to a more manageable, even if still difficult problem. Let us think about the state of Abraham's mind. This good man had a conviction that the same God who had promised him a son was now commanding him to sacrifice that son just as (in those days) a bull or a cow would have been sacrificed, by knife and fire, a burnt offering in honor of God. The difficulty is now not theological but psychological. How could a good man believe such a thing? If a good man today were caught making an attack with a deadly weapon on his own son, and if he told the police to leave him alone, because "God ordered me to do this," the police would turn him over to a psychiatrist. For today any man who would explain a killing he was about to commit, on the ground that this was God's will, would be regarded as obviously insane.

The answer to that is fairly easy if we imagine ourselves back in Abraham's time and place. Child-sacrifice, human sacrifice, was common, as the Bible and archaeology testify. Indeed, Abraham's

neighbors might easily have jeered at him for having a cheap religion because he had not sacrificed his son. Anyhow, Abraham lived at a time when such an idea as God's commanding him to sacrifice Isaac could not be brushed off (as it would by any sane man today) as a crazy notion. He really believed that was what his God wanted.

A believer's conscience

Abraham lost no time doing what he firmly believed to be God's command. Now a great many people have consciences they do not use. "You ought" or "You ought not" are only little buzzing static in the mind, fainter and fainter as time goes on and the person pays less and less attention to what his conscience is trying to say. The good man listens to his conscience; his convictions appear in his actions. He is not fond of saying "I know I ought to, but . . ." If he knows or believes he ought to, he acts accordingly. We can call this conscientiousness, but we can call it also obedience. So far as the voice of conscience is the voice of God, following the conscience is obeying the voice of God. It is true, as history shows us, that a man may think an action is good which future centuries will mark down as evil.

A believer's crown

This strange story ends with God saying, "I will bless you . . . because you have obeyed my voice." The story brings out the point that sacrificing his only son was the last thing Abraham wanted to do. It is easy enough to do what is right when that suits our convenience; but when what I want and what I ought to do are not the same thing, then it's another story. Abraham has been honored around the world ever since, because he was one man for whom the number one question always was: Is this the will of God?

Does a believing man have any reward except a kind of satisfaction in having done the right thing? Yes, he may have the reward Abraham had. Every man has even in this life some particular rewards for at least some of the good he has done; and these rewards are not all the same. Abraham was given the promise of a nation descended from him, and of being a blessing to all mankind. This could not come to every one! But isn't it likely that the best reward he could possibly have was that God approved of him? To be "approved unto God" is the brightest crown a servant and friend of God can wear.

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Two Dairymen Are Honored By Nat'l Group

Two Lancaster County Holstein breeders have qualified for the Progressive Breeders' Award — the highest recognition attainable by a breeder of Registered Holstein cattle.

Arthur K and Mary D Wenger, Manheim R2, and John E. Kreider, 523 Willow Road, Lancaster, have been notified of the awards.

The Holstein-Friesian Association of America has accorded this honor to only 542 Holstein breeding establishments, including 59 in Pennsylvania. This is the second time that both breeders have been so recognized.

To qualify for the Progressive Breeders' Award, a Holstein breeder must meet strict requirements in all phases of dairy cattle breeding and management, including production, type improvement, herd health and the development of home-bred animals.

The Wenger herd completed its latest Dairy Herd Improvement Registry testing year with a lactation average — calculated on a two milkings

a day, 305 day mature equivalent basis — on 28 individual records of 14,338 lbs of milk and 567 lbs of butterfat.

The herd has been officially classified for type with a breed age average of 101.2 percent — obtained by dividing the classification score of each cow by the average score of all Registered Holstein cows, of the same age.

The Kreider herd completed its latest Herd Improvement Registry testing year with a lactation average — calculated on a two milkings a day, 305 day mature equivalent basis — on 26 individual records of 14,534 lbs. of milk and 550 lbs. of butterfat.

The herd has also been officially classified for type with a breed age average of 101.0 percent — obtained by dividing the classification score of

each cow by the average score of all Registered Holstein cows of the same age.

A bronze year plate will be presented to them at a meeting of Holstein breeders from the area, to be added to the bronze plaque awarded when this herd first achieved the honor.

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

To Apply For Gas Tax Refund

Farmers may apply for a refund of federal tax on gasoline used on a farm for farming purposes. The refund will be 4 cents per gallon and the deadline for making the request is September 30th. Form No. 2240 is available at the Internal Revenue Office or from the County Extension Office.

To Control Potato Sprouting

The use of MH-30 on green potato vines 4 to 6 weeks before digging will prevent the growth of sprouts for at least 6 months in storage. The amount of material is 3 to 4 quart per acre along with 50 to 100 gallon of water. This spray application is strongly recommended for potatoes that are to be stored for chipping purposes. Do not use MH-30 on seed potatoes.

To Control Weeds In August Seedings

Many summer seedings of alfalfa are damaged by heavy weed growth; these weeds not only compete for soil nutrients and moisture but crowd and shade the small alfalfa plants. The use of 2,4-D, B at the rate of one quart per acre when the weeds are not more than one to two inches high is a good practice. It is very important to do this spraying when the weeds are small and can be killed by this small amount of the chemical.

To Acclimate Dairy Heifers

Several weeks before freshening time the first-calf heifer should be put with the milking string of cows and handled every day. This will get her quieted down and accustomed to the routine of milking activities. This special attention also provides the chance to feed her additional grain and prepare her for the first lactation.

Life is a lot like a grindstone — it grinds some people down, and polishes others up.