

## From Where We Stand . . .

### The Million Pound Dairy Herd

What does it take to have a herd that produces a million pounds of milk a year? Obviously it either takes a lot of cows or a lot of milk, or a combination of both. According to our calculations there were five DHIA-tested herds in Lancaster County last year that produced over one million pounds of milk. These five herds averaged 11,058 pounds of milk on 104.8 cows tested. The highest-producing of these herds was not exceptional with 12,800 pounds of milk. Size seems to be more of a factor in attaining the million-pound mark than production-level.

Some quick calculations show that a 100-cow herd must average 10,000 pounds of milk to reach the million-pound level; 90-cow herd — 11,111 pounds, 80-cows — 12,500 pounds; 70-cows — 14,285 pounds; 60-cows — 16,666 pounds, 50-cows — 20,000, etc.

Any good dairyman knows that simply making a lot of milk is not the only answer to making money, he must make milk profitably. Whether or not the five Lancaster County dairymen achieved the million-pound level profitably, we don't know. We sure hope they did, otherwise they handled a lot of milk for nothing!

Irving F. Fellows, a professor of agricultural economics at the University of Connecticut, recently pointed out some of the factors involved in producing a million pounds of milk at the Northeastern Dairy Conference.

Fellows said that before the million-pound herd will ever become commonplace some changes will have to come about in the thinking of dairymen. He suggested that they think of themselves as "Chairman of the Board", primarily concerned with management of the business. Then cows become machines converting energy into milk. The farmer is dealing with many "inputs" which must be carefully combined to produce "outputs". These inputs and outputs have dollar values, Fellows said, which convert them to costs and returns. The producer tries to maintain a favorable difference between costs and returns — a profit.

The economists can always make this business of farming sound very simple and cut and dried. One reason is that they are dealing with theory, while the farmer must deal with hot and cold running facts. The economist can put all his variables down on paper and they stay there. On the farm, however, these variables sometimes get a little out of control.

We do not mean to belittle the efforts of the economist by any means; his theory has helped, and will continue

to help, the farmer who will apply the new knowledge as it fits his farm. As the old expression goes, however, "there's no point to a man learning something new when he doesn't use half what he knows now". The farmers who aren't using what they know now have little to learn from the economists. To operate profitably today it seems a farmer has to use everything he knows plus everything he can learn, and then he has to hope the government doesn't come along with some sudden program that throws the whole thing out the window.

It can be done, Mr. Chairman of the Board, economists and government not withstanding, and you're the only man who will get the job done profitably in the final analysis!

What Do YOU Think?

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### Down With Billboards!

As you probably have heard, the order has gone out from the White House to all corners of the land that the image of America the Beautiful must be recaptured and maintained! We agree heartily. This is not a big thing in the sense of economic importance (although that hardly seems likely if the federal government is going to push it as a nationwide program). Rather, it is in the aesthetic sense an effort to maintain the image of the natural beauty of our fair land; to remove the blight of unsightliness which surrounds many of our rural areas.

Most of our future roads will, as many of our present super-highways do, pass through open country. It is proposed that the natural beauty along these "super-routes" be maintained, and enhanced with landscaping, so that travelers can find pleasure in looking on the beauty of nature in the wild. Instead of junkyards, which the President said our technology has so far failed to deal with, they will see streams and well-tended land. Instead of billboards they will see rolling hills and trees. We are reminded of the famous poem by Ogden Nash which we can quote in intent, if not actually word-for-word:

"I think that I shall never see  
A billboard lovely as a tree.  
Indeed, unless the billboards fall,  
I'll never see a tree at all!"

So we say 'let the billboards fall!' Let the states and each rural community accept the President's challenge for a more beautiful America! Rural people can lead this fight through their Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Even though we can't put a price tag on it, beauty is one of our greatest natural resources!

## New Dwarf Corn Disease Expected In Pa. This Year

A corn disease named maize dwarf mosaic, new to Pennsylvania, will undoubtedly be found in the western part of the State this summer, says Clifford C. Wernham, plant pathologist with

the Agricultural Experiment Station at The Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Wernham reports maize dwarf mosaic was present last season in all Ohio counties on the Pennsylvania border. He believes the disease may already be in Pennsylvania without being reported by farmers. It spread across Ohio to the shores of Lake Erie in three years.

The virus is spread by four species of aphids including the corn leaf aphid, he explains. It is also spread by simple rubbing of one leaf against the other and possibly by machinery brushing against infected leaves and carrying the virus to other fields.

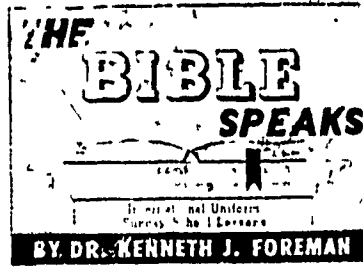
Under field conditions maize dwarf mosaic first appears about July 1 when the corn is about knee high. In virus tolerant varieties, the leaves are streaked lengthwise with broad, light colored bands. In susceptible varieties, the leaves are streaked with many short, threadlike bands. In-

fectured leaves often have a pale-yellowish color.

As the corn grows taller, infected plants do not keep pace and eventually are dwarfed. There is generally some upset in the time of pollen production and silking. Nubbins and poorly-pollinated ears are quite common. Ninety to 95 percent reduction in grain yields have been reported in Ohio.

Dr. Wernham and associates believe this corn virus can be controlled through breeding programs using inbred lines resistant to the disease. Five corn lines developed at Penn State have shown good resistance at the seedling stage. Of 480 corn lines tested, 72 appear promising. In addition Wernham and associates have 34 experimental corn lines that have passed preliminary tests for agronomic quality and disease resistance.

Keep in mind that bees and wasps are attracted by hair oils and perfumes which contain floral odors.



## You are the Man

Lesson for May 30, 1965

Background Scripture: II Samuel 11 through 13  
Devotional Reading: Psalm 51:1-14.

IF YOU can't admit that your hero has any weak points and never made a mistake, you're no person to write his biography. Most good biographies are frank about the subject's weaknesses and mistakes. But what about the hero's sins? Biographers are almost never willing to mention sins, or they even take the view that their man, being an extraordinary person with unusual



Dr. Foreman gifts is or was a privileged character whose sins, if any, should not be held against him.

Not so the Old Testament. One feature that marks it an astonishingly honest book is the way it records the sins, even the blackest, of its characters — even the greatest. The story of David, their first great king, illustrates this.

### Sins and sin

Nobody in Hebrew history has been more honored, then and since, than King David. But nobody in Hebrew or any other nation's history has blacker marks against him. His sin with Bathsheba is a classic example of what sin is and how it works. The details are all in II Samuel and there is no need to go over the sad details. By the way, it is a mistake to take the movie "David and Bathsheba" as the true story. The first thing to notice is how several sins were tied together. Adultery, lust, falsehood, drunkenness, and murder were all wrapped together in one foul package. And over it all is the colossal hypocrisy of the man. When he gets the news of his victim's death, all he says is, "Well that's the way it is". In war who knows? Sometimes one man gets killed, sometimes another . . . and all the time it was he who a . . . the details of

### TIME SAVER

Learn the layout of the market or store where you shop for food. When you understand the methods used to display foods, you can develop a personal traffic pattern which reduces the total shopping time, say Penn State extension consumer economics specialists. Keep your shopping list; it can help you manage the food dollar wisely. Arrange items on the shopping list in the order you'll fol-

low. But this raises another point about sin. Every single sin is an insult to God, as Nathan pointed out. But is there something deeper than sins? Yes, beneath them all is Sin; the root and reason of every particular sin is always the same. It is given different names: call it self-indulgence, selfishness, pride, arrogance, self-idolatry, or (Nathan's words) "utter scorn" of God; sin arises when a man decides to set his own desires, whatever they may be, above the known will of God. "God says don't, but I don't care, I say do." It's as simple — and as wicked — as that.

### Destruction of the innocent

The consequences of David's sin did not stop with his own collapse of character. They spread throughout his kingdom and his family. His example of course led to imitators. The ugly story of the rape of innocent Tamar shows that David no longer had the moral courage to condemn, much less punish, others for the same kind of sins as he had himself committed. Then there was the murder of Amnon, and the two rebellions of Absalom and of Abijah — failing to be sure, but showing that David no longer held the loyalty of all his people.

And yet we remember David as a great man, a hero, a religious man besides. How is this? The answer to that is in Psalm 51, which from early times has been taken as an expression of David's mind after this saddest chapter of his life. He was honest with himself, at last, honest before God. He did not try to cover up his sins! He could not call back what he had done; but he repented. And God accepted him . . . yet the consequences remained.

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## Now is The Time . . .

### To Cultivate Weed Control Chemicals

Most of our modern herbicides depend upon soil moisture to carry them into the soil and near the root and seed sprouting area. Without sufficient rainfall after application most of the weed killers are less effective. If soaking rains do not come within 10 days to two weeks after the field has been sprayed, we'd suggest that a rotary hoe spike tooth harrow, or light cultivator be used to work the chemical into the top 2 inches of topsoil. If it remains on top due to dry weather, it will do very little good.

### To Fertilize Alfalfa

When the first crop was cut a bit too early in order to reduce the weevil damage, it is very important that the field be kept in a high state of fertility. If the alfalfa was not top-dressed last fall, or earlier this spring, we'd suggest that an application of phosphorus and potash fertilizer be applied soon after the removal of the first crop. Plenty of available plant food will result in faster growth, more insect resistance, and greater yields.

### To Provide Fresh Water

In order for any livestock or poultry to give maximum production it is vital to have plenty of fresh water at all times. This is extremely important during the hot, summer months. Livestock out on pasture should have access to fresh water at all times with a minimum amount of effort. Watering devices should be under roof or shade in order to keep the water as cool as possible. Experiments have revealed increased consumption of water and greater output per animal

unit, if the water is cool during the summer and warm during the winter months.

### To Use Caution When Cultivating

In spite of numerous herbicides to control weeds most farmers will do some cultivating of one or more rows during the season. In this operation it is very important to keep far enough from the row to prevent the shearing off of the roots of the plants. This is injurious to all plants and will reduce their vigor and yields. Home (Continued on Page 6)



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