

Congratulations, Princess

Congratulations and best wishes for a successful year are certainly in order for our new Lancaster County Dairy Princess.

She is the pretty Susan Kauffman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Kauffman, Elizabethtown RD1.

The Kauffmans are well-known in Lancaster County Holstein circles.

And seventeen year old Susan already has made a name in her own right. She has been extremely successful showing her own

animals in 4-H competition and also in the top Holstein shows involving adults.

Being named Lancaster County Dairy Princess in competition at the Farm and Home Center Tuesday night was a particular honor because of the caliber of competition. We think the judges were right in stating that anyone of the seven contestants would have made a fine representative for the Lancaster County dairy industry.

Again, our congratulations to the new dairy princess.

Children Need 'No' Sometimes

Sometime during their tender years, every child should learn the meaning of "no."

James E. Van Horn, Penn State Extension specialist, says this is not just for his own safety. It's for the sake of others or other people's property later on in the child's life.

What happens is that if a child doesn't run up against a "no" early in life, he may seek that "no" later in his teen years. Children need to meet this conflict, and the earlier they meet it, the easier it is to control.

That doesn't mean that the "no" needs

to include undue punishment, Van Horn points out. It's merely showing a child that there is a limit as to what he can do in this world and still live peacefully with others.

The specialist advises parents to be fair in their discipline, but to let a child learn the meaning of "no" when it's needed and justified. He and the rest of society will profit by it later.

A positive attitude is best and the permissive child-rearing philosophy of recent years does have some things in its favor.

But everyone has to make decisions. And if these decisions are to mean anything, there has to be at least an occasional "no" mixed in with the "yes" rulings.

An Interesting Cattle Study

A recent study by the USDA shows that changing the location or environment of beef cattle decreases animal performance.

The study involved swapping Hereford cattle between the U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Station at Miles City, Mont., and the Beef Cattle Research Station in Brooksville, Fla. At both locations, animals that were moved gained less weight, an average ranging from 18 to 48 pounds, than comparable animals kept in the same location.

In its report on the study, the USDA stated, "The scientists indicated that if this type of interaction holds up in further testing, the beef industry will have to reexamine performance testing and selection procedures. Distribution of breeding stock and semen should also be done with caution until causes for the interactions are found."

The research raises some interesting questions.

Did the animals which were moved suffer a setback during the actual moving?

Or had the animals been bred for generations to perform well in one type of environment? Is it possible that cattle adapt to a particular type of environment over several generations and that any significant changes in environment should be viewed critically by producers?

Along these lines, we have seen reports of some cattlemen who range feed their animals, even through the winter, who make it a practice to travel several hundred miles north for feeder stock. The idea apparently is that the northern animals are bred for or conditioned to cold weather and these ani-

mals should find it easy to survive and grow in a somewhat milder climate involving less snow and cold.

The USDA study would tend to discourage this practice of going north for animals. But possibly the practice might be successful with range-fed animals, where it would not be with feedlot animals.

We would suggest another possible reason for the lower performance with the moved animals. It involves diet.

Is it possible that animals adjust themselves to a certain type of feeding program and quality of feed? And any change, even if for the better, may not be readily adapted to by the animal?

We know, for instance, that soils from one section of the county to the next or even from one section of a farm to the next can vary considerably. We can readily anticipate that the soils from one section of the county to the next will vary to a much greater degree.

This should mean that crops which are grown in Montana will vary in terms of nutrient and mineral content from comparable crops grown in Florida. Therefore even with the same basic diet, there can easily be enough difference, we would anticipate, to influence animal performance.

Like the USDA, we're not sure what the study shows. But we think it does offer interesting possibilities for follow-up.

Would it matter, for instance, if the animals were moved only a few miles instead of several hundred?

Would the moved animals still show lower weight gains than local animals if fed feed from their place of origin rather than from their new location?

Answers to these questions could confirm that present practices of going long distances for feeder stock is acceptable and profitable, or the answers could lead to changes within the industry.

We're thinking in particular that the answers could show that, all other things being equal, locally bred and raised cattle may have a competitive advantage over imports.

If that were established, the next step would be to make all other factors involving local feeder stock equal to or better than the competition.

Then more local livestock growers who want quality stock would be obliged to look first around home.



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Evaluate Herbicides

The use of chemicals to kill weeds is a very common farm practice, the introduction of new materials always keeps the producer trying something with which he has had little experience. Also, different weather conditions from year to year further confuses the situation. We are aware of poor control in many fields; also aware of crop damage in others. It is difficult to learn why, but this we should know before additional mistakes are made.

To Get Farm Pond Permits

Owners of farm ponds who are planning to treat their pond with some weed or algae control chemical should first get a permit from the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. There are a number of materials that could control the weeds, but may pollute the water running from

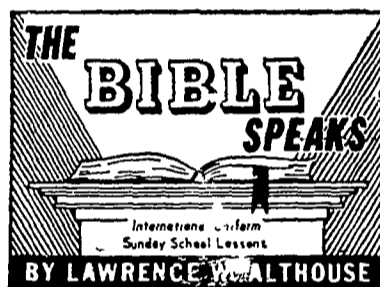
the pond into a public stream. The Lancaster County, "Water Patrolman," which is a new title for the former Fish Warden, is Charles A. Prinz, Lititz RD2. He is in a position to discuss materials to use, as well as supply an application for this permit. Applications also are available from our Extension Office.

To Harvest Straw Crop

Barley and wheat harvest will soon get underway; straw from both of these winter grains make excellent bedding for all types of livestock. In recent years straw has been very short in supply and the value has increased. All grain growers are urged to harvest as much straw as possible because there appears to be a strong demand for the limited supplies. Prompt drying and baling will help get straw of bright color and top quality.

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THE 'GOOD' OFFERING

Lesson for June 27, 1971

Background Scripture: Micah 6, 7.
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a.

Suppose you were to receive in the mail today an envelope in which you would find your last Sunday's church offering with a note saying, "Sorry, this offering not acceptable." Or suppose that next Sunday the usher were to



hand you back your dollar bill and say, "I'm sorry, we can't accept that." What would be your reaction? (Don't worry — it's not likely to happen!)

If your imagination will allow you to seriously suppose the above situations, you may have some idea how the people of Judah felt when they heard the message of Micah. It was as if he was saying that their offerings were not acceptable to God, that they were not good enough. (We all know that there is no better way to infuriate a religious person than to intimate that there's something wrong or inadequate about their giving!)

Two big questions

Micah, however, was not put on the defensive, but instead he seized the initiative by posing to the people of Judah two important questions from God. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!" (6:3). This is really a rhetorical question—a question that does not really seek information, but rather assumes an answer before it is asked. What God is really asking of his people is to give some reason for their rebellion and infidelity

against him. What has he done to deserve such treatment?

It is obvious to all, however, as it is meant to be, that God has faithfully fulfilled his part of the covenant. Thus, the prophet is reminding Judah that she has no justification for her infidelity. He is quite specific, citing what God has done, recalling the "saving acts of the Lord." "For I brought you up from the land of Egypt," he reminds them, "and redeemed you from the house of bondage; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam" (6:4).

These "saving acts" were the very basis for the Hebrew faith in God. This was a faith dependent, not upon ideas about God; doctrines, creeds, or speculations; but upon God's actions in the affairs of men and nations. He was a God who continually revealed himself to man in his saving actions in the world. One of the greatest of these, of course, was the escape from Egypt.

What kind of offering?

We come, then, to the second question which Micah raises: What kind of offering does God really want? If the offerings they give now are not acceptable to the Lord, what does he want from them?

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my first-born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

(6:7, 8)
Bigger and better sacrifices? No, says Micah, you don't have to keep looking for the answer:

He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require from you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God (6:8).

You do not have to search for God's word, you already have it. The only question is whether you will do what he asks and give to him the good offering.

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