

## Some Thoughts on Brucellosis

Two weeks ago on these pages, there appeared a letter from a dairy farmer who'd had his herd ravaged by brucellosis. In his letter, the dairyman detailed his purchase of ten cows from a dealer he'd been doing business with over a period of 18 months. The cows did not have health charts.

After putting the new cows into his herd, the farmer's original cows aborted. Eventually, brucellosis was found to be the cause of the abortions. In his understandable bitterness, the farmer blamed himself for taking cows without health charts, he blamed the dealer for selling him tainted animals, and he blamed the Penn State extension staff for not recommending brucellosis vaccinations.

We talked with Associate Lancaster County Agent N. Alan Bair about the brucellosis incident. "First of all," Bair said, "that dairyman made a mistake in not isolating those new animals. Every new cow should be isolated until a negative blood test comes back from the lab."

"Even cows with health charts should be isolated, because you never can tell what happened to them between the dealer and the farm. They could have ridden part of the way with diseased cows. It's a mistake to trust health charts completely, although no dairyman should let a cow off the truck unless his dealer first provides a health chart. Even if he buys from his neighbor he should ask for a health chart."

Much more important than the health chart, though, Bair said, is isolation. "A separate barn is the best way to isolate, but you can separate an animal from the rest of the herd just by keeping her in a separate stall until the blood work is done. It should be the stall farthest from the door, too, so the herd doesn't pass by her on the way in and out."

"And remember, brucellosis, isn't the only reason to isolate. There are other problems, like TB and IBR, that new cows can introduce into a herd. Isolation is the best way to guard against any of these. It's cheap insurance."

There's some feeling among dairymen that vaccination against brucellosis is also "good insurance", and we asked Bair about this. "Vaccination is a controversial subject. We're recommending an end to vaccination. Right now, we're on the verge of wiping brucellosis out, and we won't be able to wipe it out unless we end vaccination."

"The problem is that once an animal is vaccinated, it's possible to get a positive reading with a brucellosis blood test even if the cow doesn't have the disease. If it weren't for this fact, we'd be able to slaughter every positive reactor as a matter of course, trace the disease back to the source and wipe it out at the source. That's impossible now, because we get too many positive reactions from cows that aren't sick."

But wouldn't a ban on vaccinations mean opening the doors to a brucellosis epidemic? Bair, and his Penn State colleagues, think not. "Last year, there were only 16 herds in the entire state with brucellosis. The cause of every one of those outbreaks was traced back to out of

state herds. And 14 of those cases were traced back to a single dealer."

Veterinarians aren't unanimous by any means in their opinions on any vaccinations. At least one state, Michigan, requires brucellosis vaccinations on all cows entering the state. On the other hand, some foreign countries won't accept cows that have been vaccinated for the very same reason that Penn State recommends an end to vaccination.

Dr. Samuel B. Guss, extension veterinarian at Penn State, is adamant in his feelings on the subject. In an editorial in a recent issue of "Veterinary News" Guss said:

"States which have worked hard and long to eradicate bovine brucellosis now find themselves in a most awkward position upon successful achievement of the goal they pursued."

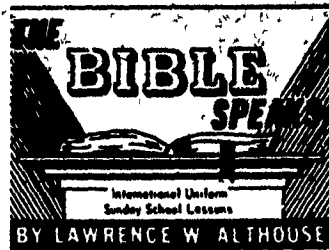
"At national veterinary and livestock meetings, proposals to restore adult vaccination and to extend the age limits for vaccination come very close to being adopted. Many veterinarians and livestock men from some states which have not yet become serious about eradicating brucellosis have concluded that vaccinating heifers is enough."

"There is good solid evidence that brucellosis is stamped out in the northeastern dairy states. For the past five years these states should have radically changed their programs emphasizing frequent milking testing and market cattle testing with the prohibition of heifer vaccination. But state veterinarians are pressured by breed associations and their own profession to pursue individual herd testing, area testing and heifer vaccination to protect herds and to keep cattle eligible for sale in other states."

"To make matters worse, when state regulatory officials try to take a stand in regional or national meetings, federal veterinarians confuse the issues with value statements designed to satisfy nobody and support nobody. In the brucellosis-free northeastern states the statement that whether or not to vaccinate heifer calves is something to be decided between the herd owner and his veterinarian is pure hogwash. The USDA is thereby telling brucellosis-free states to sit back and wait until something motivates remaining states to eradicate the disease."

"The time is ripe for brucellosis-free states to change direction in the brucellosis campaign: cattle from states not free of the disease should move into free states only by special permit. They and the herds into which they move should be held in provisional quarantine until an official retest of the imported animals made at least 30 days after their arrival confirms them to be a native."

"The time is ripe for ACTION in the brucellosis-free states - not a HOLDING ACTION. I have been told that the above is 'unrealistic' - it will hurt the free movement of cattle. It is not unrealistic and something must be done to hurt the free movement of infected, exposed, adult-vaccinated and other dangerous cattle into brucellosis-free states."



### THE DIFFERENCE

Lesson for July 14, 1974

Background Scripture: Ephesians 4:17 through 6:24.  
Devotional Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20.

"Your religion is showing!"

Those words were not intended to be a compliment, but an expression of derision. They were spoken to a friend of mine who had used the term 'Christian Love' in a discussion of a community social problem. "Good," retorted my friend, "I'm glad my religion is showing; it's supposed to!"

#### Your old nature

That is what the writer of Ephesians is saying again and again in the latter part of his epistle. There is a difference in being a Christian, and our lives should give evidence of that difference. No one can be a follower of Jesus Christ without having some profound changes take place in his life. In fact, those differences in how we live are the evidence that our discipleship is real. The differences are supposed to show.

For one thing there will be a difference in what controls our lives. Some people like the Gentiles of whom Ephesians is writing, are driven by their emotions and appetites. They do not discipline themselves, doing whatever they feel like doing, regardless of the consequences. They gorge themselves with food, alcohol, power, speed, passion and fun. Someone has characterized this kind of person as "stomach alive, soul extinct".

One cannot be a Christian, says Ephesians, and be controlled by either emotion or appetite. That was your old "manner of life", but now you are expected to live a new life which is controlled by nothing but your commitment to God. If we hold firmly to that commitment, says Ephesians, we will be "renewed in the spirit of . . . (our) minds" and our lives will give evidence of a different, "new nature".

For most of us, this means making some changes in our lives. If we are accustomed to "falsehood", we will begin to speak truthfully. If we are subject to control by anger, we will work to keep that anger in check and make sure that we never end a day with that anger in control. We will avoid situations where we know that the power of temptation will be great. Instead of dishonesty and cheating, we will devote ourselves to honest labor. We will stop talking in a manner that is harmful to others and we will leave no corner of our lives for bitterness, wrath, and anger.

But the new life in Christ is more than a matter of what we will not do: "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" (4:32). The key to the new life is the example of Jesus Christ. The "true

## NOW IS THE TIME . . .

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### To Prepare For August Seeding

Alfalfa growers who are planning to make a summer seeding should be getting their ground in condition. A complete soil test will reveal the lime and fertilizer needs; these materials should be worked into the soil prior to seeding. Lime should be given time to reduce soil acidity rather than to expect over-night results. A firm seedbed free of weeds is also very essential to a quick growth. The band seeding method is strongly recommended to get strong plants before cold weather arrives. When seeded without a nurse crop the field should be sprayed for weeds either before seeding the alfalfa or after the growth is 1 to 2 inches high. Alfalfa is an excellent forage crop in this part of the country and good stands well managed should give profitable returns.

### To Control Leafhoppers

The third cutting of alfalfa is now growing on many local farms; due to past experience, we can expect damage from the potato leafhopper unless spray applications are made. The yellowing and stunting of the plants are often due to leafhoppers. When the new growth is 3 to 5 inches high an application of Methoxychlor should protect the plants from this insect. To wait until damage is evident is not the way to get maximum third cuttings. An effort to prevent damage to the plants as the new growth begins should result in larger yields. Malathion may also be used when aphids are feeding on the small alfalfa plants.

### To Order Fall Grain Needs

It's not too early to be contacting your local seed dealer to place the order for winter barley and wheat seeding. These crops are in strong demand and certified seed should be used when possible. We are aware of some growers using local seed without knowing germination percentage, weed seed content, or disease possibilities. Certified seed of the desired variety is still the best place to put your money and efforts. With the higher price of feed grains in recent years, it is good management to attempt to produce the maximum amount of these grains and reduce the amount to be purchased. Don't delay seed ordering until you have to accept what is left.

### To Accept Community Responsibility

We continue to urge that farmers take active part in their local community as far as zoning and planning boards are concerned. We realize that most farmers are very busy and already have more extra activities than needed; however, as more non-farm families establish in the rural areas, there will be more decisions to be made off the farm. It will be better if farmers help to make these decisions than have to abide by decisions made by others that directly concern the farm. Farmer input into community decisions might be more acceptable to the agricultural community than if the decisions and regulations are made by non-farm folks. Be willing to participate in community planning so that agricultural will not be severely restricted.

## Farm Calendar

Wednesday, July 17  
9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Chester Co. Homemakers Workshop, Freezing and Canning Fruits and Vegetables, Chester Co. Savings and Loan, Market and High St., West Chester.

Kimberton Community Fair, Kimberton, Pa., Chester County

Friday, July 19  
State Young Farmer's Family Picnic, Treadway Resort, Lancaster

## from HISTORY'S SCRAPBOOK

DATES AND EVENTS FROM YESTERYEARS

Julius Caesar was born on July 12, 100 B.C.  
The Draft Riots of 1863 broke out in New York City on July 13, 1863, killing 1,000 people.  
The citizens of Paris stormed the Bastille Prison on July 14, 1789.  
Rembrandt, famous Dutch painter, was born on July 15, 1606.  
Czar Nicholas II, his wife and children, were murdered by the Bolsheviks on July 16, 1918.  
General Franco began the Spanish Civil War on July 17, 1936.  
The Presidential Succession Act was signed on July 18, 1947.

righteousness and holiness" that will constitute the difference in our Christian discipleship are to be found in our constant and persistent emulation of "the likeness of God" we find revealed in Jesus Christ.

### Editor's Quote Book

Every man is two men. one is awake in the darkness, the other is asleep in the light.

—Kahlil Gibran