

Farm Commentary

by Dick Wanner

Dairy Health Problem

Like many speakers, Jane Alexander started on a light note at Lancaster County Dairy Day on Tuesday afternoon. But Pennsylvania's Deputy Secretary of Agriculture stopped smiling when she began talking about herd health. And her voice shook, it seemed to us, when she got to the subject of Lancaster County herd health.

"The Department of Agriculture's funds for animal indemnification are just about wiped out because of dairy cow condemnations," she told the audience. "There's a chance that we're going to have to depopulate a Lancaster County herd of 180 cows. Indemnification money doesn't last long when you're dealing with that kind of problem."

Later in the day, we talked to Dr. Everett Denlinger, the Lancaster County veterinarian who heads up the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industries. He told us that there are ten quarantined herds in Lancaster County. Five of those, including the one Mrs. Alexander referred to, are restricted because of brucellosis. Three are quarantined for para-TB, and two for TB.

Dr. Denlinger said that there are presently 19 herds quarantined with brucellosis in the entire state, up from just seven a year ago. And he said that his department has noted an increase in the number of brucellosis vaccinations being carried out in the past six months.

Is Lancaster County a hotbed of dairy disease, we asked Dr. Denlinger. "We're keeping a close watch on the county, but considering the number of cows here, I don't think the percentage is any higher than it is in the rest of the state. We're concerned now because we don't want it

to become a real problem."

Dr. Denlinger said the condition here is aggravated by free stall barns with dirt floors, the vast number of dairy cattle locally and the swapping back and forth of cows between neighbors, friends and relatives.

In the large herd with 180 animals, some 50 cows have been removed so far. An unconfirmed report said that the herd was healthy a short while ago. The owner sold about 20 head into an out-of-state herd, then brought them back some months later. The cows did not have up-to-date health certificates when they were brought back, and they were not quarantined when they rejoined the herd. They brought brucellosis back with them and infected their herd-mates.

In her speech, Mrs. Alexander said that the department is considering some changes in the regulations concerning indemnity funds. The thrust of her message was that dairymen whose herds became infected through carelessness might not be able to get indemnity.

The message is clear. There's a dairy health problem in Lancaster County. Certainly, 10 infected herds out of 2000 is no epidemic, but it is cause for alarm. Dairymen must be extremely careful about bringing new cows into their herds. Cows should only be bought if they have valid health certificates, and even then they should be kept separate from the rest of the herd for 30 days.

Under any circumstances, sending an entire herd to the butcher cannot be a pleasant experience. But if, through carelessness, a farmer loses his right to collect indemnity for infected cows, the experience could be more than unpleasant. It could be disastrous.

Unemployment Blues?

Lou Moore, in his speech to a group of Lancaster County poultrymen on Thursday night, started off with a story about a man who threw a bull across a fence. Happily, though, the bull throwing story was not in any way symbolic of the content of Moore's speech.

We had second thoughts, though, when Moore said out-of-work vacationers were so thick in Florida this year that state policemen were standing on the highways asking southbound tourists to turn around and go home. Moore's credibility was rescued by the corroborating testimony of a member of the audience who'd just returned from the Sunshine State.

This curious anomaly of hard times in America, Moore said, was brought

about by unemployment compensation which actually boosted the take home pay of many who lost jobs because of the double-barreled assault on the economy by both inflation and recession. Some workers are drawing as much as 95 percent of their base wages. Since unemployment payments aren't taxed, these workers are getting more than they were getting as wage earners.

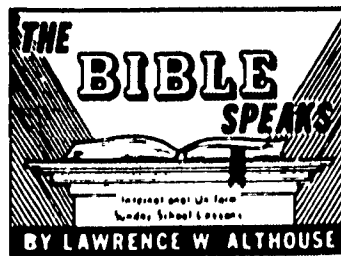
"So a lot of these people weren't especially hurt financially. And they figured since they had the free time, they might as well go to Florida. And when they got there, they ran into a lot of people who were still working. The people who have jobs this year figured they'd better take their vacations and go to Florida while they can still afford it."

From the Mail

One thing we like about our readers is their candor. One new subscriber this week told us he decided to subscribe after coming across a copy of the paper in somebody's garbage can. For his sake, we hope the paper wasn't wrapped around anything before he decided to read it.

Another new reader was in-

troduced to the paper by his chicken salesman. And this week for the first time, we'll be sending a paper to Hangover Farm in Bangor, Pa. And oh, yes, a special welcome this week to new subscriber Richard A. Rohrer, Kodiak, Alaska. Richard, we understand, has discovered a great way to make frozen strawberries. He just leaves 'em on the vine until August 1



THE WOUNDED HEALER

Lesson for March 9, 1975

Background Scripture: Hebrews 2:10 through 5:14. **Devotional Reading:** Phillipians 2:1-11.

Somewhere I have heard it said that "the wounded healer" is often best able to heal the brokenness of others. A physician who has experienced disease personally is more likely to be effective in bringing recovery to his patients. A counselor who has personally had to work through momentous problems of his own is more likely to be helpful in assisting others to work through theirs.

Another's moccasins

If we are to help other people, we must be able to understand them. And in order to understand them we ought to be able to put ourselves in their place. An old Indian saying tells us that we cannot rightly judge another man until we have walked ten miles in his moccasins."

Following this philosophy, a valuable tool often used in problem-solving with people is a device called "role playing." People are asked to act out in an impromptu manner the "role" of another person so that the "actor" may experience that other person "from the inside." For example, a mother and daughter experiencing conflict over parental rules and regulations may be asked to "reverse their roles," the mother trying to act the role of the daughter and the daughter assuming the role of the mother. Often great understanding comes from these experiments and relationships are healed.

Another reason for the healing power of the "wounded healer" is the greater likelihood that we will respond favorably to someone who has "been where we are." The comforting attempts of someone who has personally known grief are usually more convincing to us. This is why rehabilitated handicapped people are sent to try to help others with disabilities, why "ex-cons" are often sent to work with prison inmates, and former mental patients sent back to mental health facilities to work with the emotionally disturbed.

Tempted as we are

It is also for these same reasons that the Epistle to the Hebrews exalts Jesus as our exalted "high priest." As the writer puts it:

For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:1)

This is a crucial teaching, for some people think of Jesus in such exalted terms that he is seen as personally irrelevant. Dwelling on his perfection and divinity, some people feel that a person so removed from the common temptations and experiences of men could hardly be of much help. How, they reason, could the Son of God know what it means to



NOW IS THE TIME...

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To Spray for Garlic
Pastures infected with wild garlic should be sprayed during March for best control. The application of 2-4, D (Ester form) before the clover starts to grow should keep the wild garlic plants from maturing. The goal is to spray and kill the garlic plants when they are small. Later in the spring the garlic plants will be harder to kill and any clover in the pasture will be injured. Wild garlic is a major milk flavor problem on many dairy farms and effort should be made to eradicate the weed.

To Withhold DES

Hormone
I have recently been informed that as of March 16, 1975, cattle feeders will have to certify that slaughter cattle have not been fed any stilbestrol hormone (DES) for at least 14 days. Therefore, cattle feeders need to respect this regulation and feed their cattle accordingly. This same regulation was in effect about two years ago, but was discontinued when sufficient evidence was not available. The restriction was imposed because of the danger of residue in the meat tissues. Feeders should check with their marketing concern.

Farm Calendar

- Tuesday, March 11**
5:30 a.m. - Lancaster County Holstein Assoc. annual tour. Buses leave from Farm and Home Center. Return Wednesday.
- Wednesday, March 12**
1975 4-H Expo, Park City Mall, Lancaster. Continues through March 15.
7:30 p.m. - Home vegetable gardening meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center.
7:30 p.m. - Chester Co. dairy meeting on sire summaries and evaluations. Central Chester Co. Voc-Ag School, Lincoln Highway, East of Coatesville.
7:30 p.m. - Garden Spot adult farmer meeting on farm taxes, Hinkletown Alternative School.

struggle against life's temptations? How could a man of so many miracles know what it means to be hungry, helpless, or grief-stricken?

Still, that is what the writer of Hebrews is telling us. Just as the human priest must be understanding and merciful because of his own weaknesses, so God's great high priest, Jesus Christ, has shared the full limitations of our humanity, even dying on a cross in abject pain and rejection.

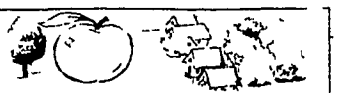
With that kind of "wounded healer," says Hebrews: "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

To Protect Pastures
Grazing areas are very soft and muddy this time of the year. Livestock should not be allowed to run on the area because they will tramp holes in the sod and retard spring growth. Grass plants should be fertilized within the next month and given a chance to get several inches of growth before being grazed. A pasture that is given good care in the spring should produce more forage for the rest of the season.

To Seed Early

Some crops will do better when seeded just as early in the spring as weather permits. I'm referring to spring oats, pastures, and new seedings of alfalfa. All of these should be seeded just as quickly as the ground is dry enough. In this area spring oats must be seeded by the first week in April if any decent yield is expected; they need maximum growth and maturity before hot weather arrives. The grasses and alfalfa need to get as much growth and root development as possible before the weather turns hot and dry. All materials and equipment should stand ready to plant at the earliest opportunity.

- Thursday, March 13**
9:30 a.m. - Farm estate planning seminar, Timbers Restaurant, Quakertown.
6:30 p.m. - Lancaster County Conservation District annual banquet, Good 'n Plenty Restaurant.
7:30 p.m. - Workshop on farm transfers and partnerships, Lancaster Farm and Home Center.
7:30 p.m. - Elizabethtown Young Farmer machinery meeting, E-Town H.S. ag classroom.
- Friday, March 14**
9:30 a.m. - Farm estate planning seminar, Holiday Inn, Lionville.
6:45 p.m. - Manheim FFA banquet, Manheim Central H.S. cafeteria.
- Monday, March 17**
7:30 p.m. - Lancaster County goat meeting, Dr. Samuel Guss, speaker, Lancaster Farm and Home Center.
- Tuesday, March 18**
9:30 a.m. - Farm financial management clinic, Lancaster Farm and Home Center. Continues through Wednesday.
10:10 a.m. - Montgomery County Dairy Day, Colledgeville Inn.



FOR MORE THAN A QUARTER-CENTURY A MODERN-DAY JOHNNY APPLESEED HAS BEEN AT WORK IN MICHIGAN. DENNIS MADISON GROWS TREE SEEDLINGS IN HIS SPARE TIME, OFFERS READY-TO-PLANT TREES TO HOMES, COLLEGES, CITY PARKS, INDIVIDUALS IN A SIX-CITY AREA. "THE ONLY WAY WE GET FRESH AIR TO BREATHE IS BECAUSE WE HAVE TREES", HE SAYS.