

# Farm Commentary

by Dick Wanner

## Order 4 Milk Market Expanded

Dairymen in 13 Pennsylvania counties and one county in Maryland voted by a 97 percent majority to expand the Federal Order 4 Milk Market. The order had formerly included producers who shipped to the principal metropolitan areas of Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Wilmington. After June 1, order 4 prices will be paid to all farmers, regardless of how they market their milk, in the Pennsylvania counties of Bucks, Montgomery, Adams, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York. Washington County, Maryland, is also included in the

expanded Order.

Many dairymen in the area have been accustomed to receiving Order 4 prices because their milk is shipped to the Order 4 markets via milk cooperatives. Farmers who are shipping to independent dairies in the area will notice a change in the way their milk price is calculated.

While independent shippers will receive higher prices for both Class I and Class II milk under the Order 4 setup, the utilization of Class I milk will be lower. The blend price, the average price they receive for their milk, should continue to be about the same.

## Freestone Peach Bill Introduced

Pennsylvania congressman Joseph Vigorito, a member of the House Ag Committee, has introduced a bill to enable freestone peach growers to finance a research and education program to improve the quality and sale of this fruit. The bill provides that both the administrative costs of the program after it becomes operational, and the costs of specific research and education projects, would be borne by the peach producers themselves.

The costs would be paid out of a small per-bushel assessment, yet to be determined, of peaches sold in the commercial market.

Pennsylvania producers account for nearly 10 percent of the nation's

freestone peach crop. In 1974, the Commonwealth's crop totaled 2.5 million bushels, valued at \$14.3 million. Nationally, the peach crop totaled 26.74 million bushels, with a farm value of some \$147.6 million.

The Vigorito bill provides for a refund to any peach producer who elects not to contribute to the program. Research financed by the proposed assessment will focus on improved productivity through soil fertilization, tree breeding and cultivation, tree disease prevention and so forth. Research will also be done to improve marketing techniques.

## Land, Water Seen Adequate to 2000 A.D.

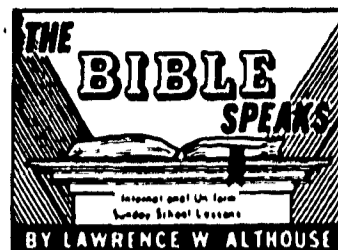
U.S. land and water resources available for food and fiber production are adequate to satisfy domestic and foreign demand, at least until the year 2000, according to a pair of USDA pamphlets issued this week

The pamphlets note that agriculture is the biggest user of the nation's more than two billion acres and is also the main consumer of the American water supply. Both caution that wise planning and use of these resources are vital.

## Honor For Wentink

Congratulations are in order for Hendrick "Henk" Wentink, assistant to the president of Pennfield Corp., the local feed firm Wentink was named "Eggman of the Year" by United Egg Producers for his work as chairman of the National Commission on Egg Nutrition. Wentink was in

Pretoria, South Africa, at the time of the presentation, so he had to accept the honor by trans-Atlantic phone. Wentink's battle against the American Medical Association's anti-egg campaign has attracted national publicity.



### NO HIDING PLACE

Lesson for May 4, 1975

**Background Scripture:** Psalms 139.  
**Devotional Reading:** John 14:15-21.

A friend of mine told me recently that there are times when his work piles up and the pressures seem unbearable and he day-dreams about "running away from it all" to some far-away place where he can find peace and quiet.

"Do you think of it seriously?" I asked.

"Not really," he replied, "for I know there's really no hiding place from God."

#### God Knows Me

This is actually what the prophet Jonah learned the hard way: a man cannot hide from God. No matter what he did, no matter where he went, he could not seem to find a hiding place secure from God.

This too was the experience of the Psalmist:

"O Lord, thou hast searched me and known me! Thou knowest when I sit down and when I rise up; thou discernest my thoughts from afar." (139: 1,2)

In a novel I read some time ago, one of the characters successfully hides a disgraceful act for many years. At last, however, he realizes that he cannot keep this knowledge inside himself any longer and, staring at himself in the mirror, he cries: "You thought you could get away with it, but by God, you couldn't!"

This is what the Psalmist found too:

"Even before a word is on my tongue, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether" (139:4)

There are no secrets in God's sight.

#### Where can I hide?

Jonah, faced with a task from God that he didn't want to perform, decided to "skip town." He went as far from Israel as he could. Apparently, he thought that God was limited to his own country. His God was too small, too limited. In reality, he found, God is universal. He is everywhere and there is no place where he cannot find us:

"Wither shall I go from thy Spirit? Or wither shall I flee from thy presence? (139:7)

Is there nowhere we can hide from God?

Nowhere, the Psalmist discovered:

"If I ascend to heaven, thou art there! If I make my bed in Sheol, thou art there!" (139:8)

It is foolish to try to hide from God for there is no hiding place he cannot find. We may try to bury ourselves in work, we may busy ourselves in fun and good times, we may even temporarily blot him out of our minds, but we cannot ever hide from him that he doesn't find us.

At last, realizing that it is fruitless to flee from God, the Psalmist submits to God's scrutiny: "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!" (139:23).



## NOW IS THE TIME...

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**TO DRENCH SHEEP**  
Sheep flocks need special attention this time of the year when they are caught for being sheared; this is also a good time to trim their feet and drench them for internal parasites. In this part of the country, being hot and humid, stomach worms are a major problem in the sheep industry; flocks should be drenched in the spring before they go to pasture and again in the fall when they come from pasture to their winter quarters. Lambs should be drenched monthly during the first summer. The rotation of pastures every 2 to 3 weeks will also help to keep down the parasite problem.

#### TO MAKE RYE SILAGE

A very common practice among livestock and dairymen is to grow a crop of rye during the winter and early spring to be made into silage during early May and then plant the same ground to corn, soybeans, or another annual crop. Winter rye has been growing very fast in recent weeks and after a few days of warm weather here early in May, it will be approaching the time to cut for silage. Research work shows that winter rye should be cut for silage when in the boot to early heading stage of maturity; this will result in silage with the best palatability and the most feed nutrients. Field conditioning and wilting is very important in order to get rid of excess moisture. Cattle feeders may want to use some feed additive such as ground corn and cob chop or a molasses feed in order to add extra energy to the rye silage. Not needed as a preservative, when well wilted, but adds feed value and energy.

**TO TEST AND SEGREGATE ANIMALS**  
Pressure to clean up Brucellosis infected herds in Canada and in other states is increasing the risk of infection to Pennsylvania dairymen who are buying replacements. Dr. Sam Guss, our Extension Veterinarian at Penn State, strongly recommends that dairymen re-test all animals purchased and segregate them until the negative test is received. Verbal promises and reports are not sufficient to make the animal safe to go into the herd. Be sure the animal is disease-free before she contacts other animals in the herd. Be especially careful with out-of-state animals. Don't take chances of infecting your entire herd.

#### TO TAKE YOUR TIME

"Haste Makes Waste" has often been said and is quite true in too many instances. . . . Also, it could be dangerous and cause accidents. The haste in mind in this article is with farm machinery and especially with the corn planter. Many acres of corn will be planted in the next few weeks and this is a major crop in this county. (180,000 acres) Growers are urged to take the time to adjust their planters to drop the desired population per acre. Make allowance for mortality of some of the kernels to poor germination, birds, and insects. Silage corn is usually planted about 2,000 plants per acre thicker than grain corn. Fertilizer should not come into direct contact with the corn seed. Careful management to be certain that everything is done exactly right is strongly suggested for the start of another good corn crop.

Lebanon Fairgrounds  
8:00 p.m.

## Farm Calendar

- Sunday, May 4**  
9:00 a.m. - Lancaster County Conservancy Walkathon for Chickies Rock. Meeting at Chickies Rock Parking Lot.
- Monday, May 5**  
Ayrshire Breeders Tour of the Masonic Homes and Dairy Herd in Elizabethtown 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 7**  
Lancaster County Conservation District meeting at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 8**  
Testimonial dinner for J. Lin Huber, retiring milk Marketing Board Member.
- Saturday, May 10**  
Lebanon Valley Expo Corp.

## Early Milkers Not Productive



Cows of the Colonial farmer were a far cry from the prolific milk producers which are found on today's modern dairy farms.

Milk yields were extremely low Israel Acrelius, a farmer and writer of the time, reported in 1759, "Where the pasture is fair, a cow does not give less than two quarts of milk at a time - that is, twice a day" Cows today commonly produce 25 quarts a day. And it's not unusual for a cow to produce 50 quarts in a day and some exceptional animals have produced 75 and more quarts in a single day.

There was not much improvement in Colonial cows until after 1790, when farmers began to produce forage crops in more abundance. As the half-starved animals ate better, the production of milk gradually began to increase. Around 1800, more attention to the breeding of dairy cattle began to have an effect on milk production.

Finally, he acknowledges: from God there is no hiding place!

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