

Farm Commentary

by Dick Wanner

Congratulations Dairy Princesses

Four area dairy princesses were crowned last weekend - Cathy Yanos in Berks County, Sandy Evans in Chester County, Marjie Hoffer in Dauphin County and Donna Akers in Lancaster County.

Lancaster Farming congratulates these young ladies and wishes them the best of luck in the coming year of their reigns. They're to be warmly thanked, too, for their willingness to serve as dairy industry representatives.

Many long hours of hard work,

which most of us never see, have gone into these affairs. The real unsung heroes of dairy princess contests are the coordinators. The dairy industry owes a special thanks to these folks for their efforts.

Mrs. Donald Myers handled the chores in Berks County. Jane Pepple was the lady on the spot in Chester County, Mrs. Paul Miller took care of things in Dauphin County, and Mrs. Robert Gregory, as she's done for many years, oversaw the Lancaster County contest.

World Wheat Output Tops Record

World wheat, coarse grain production for 1975-76 projected, by USDA's Outlook and Situation Board, as record high.

Though actual totals were not disclosed in the Summary of the World Agricultural Outlook Situation, issued last week, Secretary of Agricultural Earl L. Butz (in a Caracas, Venezuela, speech) predicted world wheat output may reach 372 million metric tons, up 7 pct. from last year and nearly 2 pct. above the previous high set 2 years ago; and that output of coarse grains (corn, rye, barley and oats) might reach 626 million tons, up 100 million tons from last year's output and more than 4 pct. above the previous high set in 1972-73.

That, despite earlier reports of

lower-than-expected grain output in the Soviet Union and a new Foreign Agricultural Service report outlining damage to grain (from rain and drought) in the Southern Hemisphere.

Australia's 1975-76 wheat crop prospects continued to suffer from dry weather. So harvest late this year may be less than 10 million metric tons (MT) - down 2 million from last year. Argentine corn and sorghum production estimates also are down; corn output may be 7.3 million MT - down 25 pct. - and sorghum at 3.5 million MT - 33 pct. below last year. Belgium and Luxembourg grain crops also are likely to decline - wheat by 15 pct., according to Foreign Agricultural Service.

Export Value Down, Volume Up In '76

For the past few years, it's been higher value of exports, despite lower volume. For fiscal 1976, however, the situation will be reversed, according to an article in the June issue of the Economic Research Service's FATUS (Foreign Agricultural Trade of the -

U.S.) magazine.

Value of exports for fiscal 1976 is seen at around \$18 billion, down 20 pct. from the \$22 billion total now seen for fiscal 1975. But, volume is expected to be up - as much as 10 pct. The reason: Lower prices.

U.S. Sheep Numbers Slide

Average U.S. farm price for shorn wool peaked at 90.4 cents a lb in March 1973, but total of stock sheep and lambs continued downward trend along with wool price thereafter (May 1975 average wool price was 47.6 cents) Jan 1975 sheep and lamb preliminary total, at 125 million, down 9 pct in 1 year, down 42 pct from 1965 total of 218 million. Yet world wool production (3.263 million lbs) was almost same

as 1964's (3,259 million lbs., estimated)

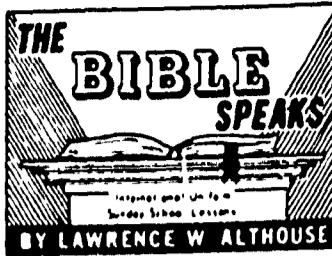
Meanwhile, U.S. imported 27 million lbs in 1974 - lowest on record - and exported 4.3 million lbs - up 14 pct from year earlier - while producing 132.9 million lbs. Major exporters Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Argentina, Uruguay. Australia exported 1,136 (sic) million lbs during 1973-74 season (Cotton & Wool Situation)

Meat Imports Off in April

U.S. meat imports off during April. Those covered by the Meat Import Law (mainly fresh or frozen beef and veal) totaled 86.1 million lbs, down 6 pct from a year earlier. All red meat imports for the month (those covered by the Meat Import Law, plus canned and preserved beef and veal, all pork and lamb) totaled 124.3 million lbs.,

down nearly 12 pct from a year earlier.

The Jan-April totals Meats covered by the Meat Import Law, 425.1 million lbs, up 7 pct from a year earlier, all red meats, 577.2 million lbs, down 5½ pct from a year earlier.



GROW UP!

Lesson for June 29, 1975

Background Scripture: John 15.

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 55: 1-7.

"Come and eat your food so that you'll grow up big and strong!"

Someone has speculated that those words were among the first communications uttered by Prehistoric mothers to their children in caves and tree huts. Mothers are still saying those words with substantial success, for there is hardly a boy or girl who does not want to "grow up."

Growing Older

Unfortunately, after years dedicated to growth, many of us slow down in that process and some of us even stop growing at all. Author Louis Bromfield, in one of his novels, says:

But with me there was no growth... I had lost nearly twenty years which should have been employed in thinking, and because those years had been wasted I had never attained any degree of maturity. I had merely grown older, and like those men who constantly cling to their youth or return to it at college reunions and Legion conventions, I had merely withered. Unfortunately some people do not grow up, they only grow older.

Christians, the Bible makes it clear, are intended to continue in the process of "growing up." The writer of Ephesians asks that "we may no longer be children..." but "rather... grow up in every way." It is not enough for the disciple of Jesus to merely grow older.

In the Gospel According to John, we find an allegory of Christian growth. One of the key words of the fifteenth chapter of John is the word "abide." Jesus says, "Abide in me, and I in you" (15:4). Later he goes on the say: "As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me" (15:4). Still later he speaks of abiding in his love.

What does he mean abide? The word is often translated as "to dwell." Jesus is urging his disciples to dwell or live in him. J. B. Phillips, translates this also as "grow." "Now you must go on growing in me and I will grow in you." Later he uses the word "share": "It is the man who shares my life and whose life I share who proved fruitful."

Growing up

Obviously, we are intended to grow up in union with Christ. This union is like the union between the vine and its branches: the branches grow from the vine. Furthermore, just as in all growing things, the branches are expected to bear fruit and Jesus makes much of the respective rewards of branches that are fruitful or unfruitful.

It is said that no one grows old. You are old when you stop worrying about growing old and let us concentrate on growing up "in every way to Christ."



NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851

To Protect Sweet Corn

Early-planted sweet corn is shooting tassel and soon the silks will be appearing. One of the major insects of sweet corn is the corn earworm, that feed on the silk end of the ear. This worm may be controlled by spraying every 3 to 4 days after the first silks appear with Sevin; at least three applications will be needed. This will help produce a sound ear of corn without any worms in the end. This earworm problem will no doubt be worse on later plantings, which also need protection. Also, some gardeners have already reported many small holes in the leaves that develop out of the whirl of the plant. This is usually caused by the European Corn Borer and may be controlled by spraying with Sevin down into the whirl of the plant with weekly applications. However, in most gardens the damage done by the corn borer is not too severe.

To Improve Alfalfa Yields

Many of our forage experts feel that we should be getting larger yields of alfalfa in this part of the state. Perhaps more attention to the many suggested management practices will get more quality hay for many growers. The control of leaf hoppers should be on the list for all alfalfa growers during the summer months; they are now feeding on some fields and need to be controlled with sprays of Cygon or Methoxychlor. Growers are urged to try to prevent loss of yield and not wait until the plants are stunted and yellow before doing anything. Alfalfa still needs plenty of lime in order to produce top yields. Liberal applications of phosphorus

and potash fertilizers once or twice a year will help get the greatest return from alfalfa. Alfalfa is still "Queen" of the forage crops and warrants the best of attention.

To Protect Livestock From The Heat

High temperatures along with high humidity can be the cause of serious livestock losses. Producers are urged to give attention to adequate shade, ventilation, and fresh water. Barns and sheds should be opened in order to get maximum cross ventilation. Exhaust fans should be used to draw air through a building; however, the windows and doors close to the fan should be closed. Livestock on pasture should have access to shade at all times. Animals that are confined may need extra fans to keep the air moving in the building. Hogs may need sprinkling of fogging devices on the water system in order to add comfort. Livestock should be transported early morning or at night in order to reduce losses from heat exhaustion.

To Combine Carefully

The winter barley and wheat crops will be harvested in the next few weeks. The proper adjustment and operation of the combine is very important in order to get the grain in the bin and not out on the ground. Speed is one factor that causes too much grain to be thrown out with the straw; when the machine is operated too fast it does not have a chance to thoroughly separate the grain from the straw. We often see evidence of the grain loss in the late summer by the green growth of the grain in the straw window. Good combining requires dry conditions, good machinery, and proper speed.

Farm Calendar

Sunday, June 29

Pa. Vocational Association Conference lasts thru July 2 at the Host Farm, Lancaster.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers Picnic at the Ephrata Community Park 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 1

Agronomy Field Day at the Penn State Agronomy Research Farm, Rock Springs.

Wednesday, July 2

Lancaster County Conservation District meeting at the Farm and Home Center 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 10

Lancaster County Swine Producer's Tour of the

A little girl who fell out of bed explained to her mother: "I guess I fell asleep too near to where I got in!"

What about you? (Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Jerry Rutter farm and swine operation in York County. Will leave the Farm and Home Center at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 13
Elizabethtown Young Farmers Picnic.

Youth Calendar

Saturday, June 28

Exchange Trip to Colorado for Lancaster County 4-Hers.

Monday, June 30

Lampeter-Strasburg 4-H Merrimaid's Club meeting at the Martin Meylin Junior High School 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 1

Mt. Joy 4-H Cooking Club meeting at 11:00 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Mt. Joy.

Lancaster County 4-H Demonstration Day at the Farm and Home Center.

Wednesday, July 2

Lancaster Red Rose Baby Beef Club recreation night at the Manheim Memorial Park at 7:00 p.m.