



Billie
On the green

Kicking either me or the milking machine at just about every milking was the last straw as far as I was concerned.

"It's no wonder Mr. Fisher sold you, Bonnie," I said with disgust. "You don't produce over 60 pounds of milk per day, you dropped a midget of a calf, you kick like a mule, and you're putting too much of my feed on your back!" I protested, punctuating the remarks with cracks from the milking machine strap. After having had her in the herd for more than two months, with lots of trouble and little pleasure, she didn't need to be pampered anymore. The only good quality she had was her high (4.9 percent average) butterfat test, which perennially saved her from the slaughterhouse.

My disappointment with Bonnie carried over to her little scrubby heifer calf, which I had named "Billie." She was such an undesirable thing that a local calf buyer didn't want it, and I didn't want to take a chance at the auction because she was too small yet.

Weeks and months passed, Bonnie's production didn't improve, but she was, at least, easier to get along with. Billie didn't grow much and her stature became worse instead of better. Short between the legs, round, and beefy-looking, Billie always received her feed without a show of

affection — because I simply wasn't interested in her. But she was never abused either — just ignored.

Billie, who is pictured in the right foreground of the title picture this week, never caught my eye, was never perted, and I anticipated little but problems from her when she eventually freshened.

The first time I put a milker on Billie, I expected her to send me to Kingdom Come. I put the milker on carefully and nervously.

Then Billie turned her head, with her mouth still full of feed, and began to flick my arm. Then she licked my face, and instead of either of us being nervous — she was very relaxed, and I just about melted. Billie wanted to be a pet even though I had never shown her any affection, and in spite of the fact that her mother was the fiercest kicker in the 55-cow herd.

A daughter of "Howcres Reflector Model," Billie became one of the finest looking animals in the herd. She had stretched out nicely in both length and height, and was my pride and joy after that first milking. As a bonus, she milked like a fool and had her mother's fat test too. Somehow, the fat test was all she inherited from her mother, and that was all I would have wanted her to have.

Such an experience is one of the rewards a dairyman has in his life on the farm, and the satisfaction derived from it is priceless.

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One bad one spoils the bunch

Brucellosis and tuberculosis are on the rise again, according to officials in Lancaster County, other counties, and other states. The diseases, which had been pretty well under control during recent years, have apparently made a comeback and are the subject of conversation and print in many areas. Following is a case from out of Vermont — which could also apply for Pennsylvania, North Carolina, or anywhere else. We reprint "A lesson in brucellosis prevention" from the October 1975 issue of the "Transmitter," published by Atlantic Breeders Cooperative.

Vermont was one of the first states in the U.S. to be declared brucellosis free and for years there was no evidence of the disease in the state despite good surveillance efforts.

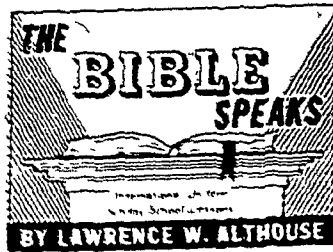
Cattle owners heard so little about brucellosis that they became complacent about it and bought cattle through dealers from out-of-state and Canadian herds. Unaccountably, most of the cattle had health charts, but

many of them were infected or exposed to brucellosis before they reached Vermont.

Appearance of the disease in Vermont herds in the past few months prompted an all-out crash program to seek out infected herds. Already, 35 infected herds have been found by a task force of 26 USDA veterinarians and technicians who are conducting a farm-to-farm blood test.

Pennsylvania has the same problem with reintroduction of brucellosis. Infected and exposed cattle have been brought into Keystone herds. Dr. Sam Guss, Penn State extension veterinarian, advises those who buy cattle regardless of the source or vaccination status to isolate them and have them tested negative for tuberculosis and brucellosis before exposing your herd to them.

To do less than that is like playing Russian roulette with your herd, cautions Dr. Guss.



ABRAHAM LAUGHED

Lesson for October 12, 1975

Background Scripture: Genesis 15 through 18:15.

Devotional Reading: Exodus 16:2-12.

Abraham laughed! But then, why shouldn't he have laughed? It was better than becoming cynical or angry. God had made a ridiculous promise to Abraham and he had to make some kind of response!

Consider what God was saying: "... I will make my covenant between me and you and will multiply you exceedingly... you shall be the father of a multitude of nations" (Genesis 17:2,3). It sounded like a wonderful promise, but how could the Lord ever deliver the goods?

First of all, how could Abraham be a "father of a multitude of nations" when he didn't even have a son?

Well, God seemed to have an answer for that objection: "I will give you a son by her (Sarah, Abraham's wife)" (Genesis 17:16).

When Abraham was ninety-nine

ah yes, Lord, but you're forgetting one little fact: Abraham is ninety-nine years old and Sarah is ninety — in anyone's book that is well past the child-conceiving period of life!

So, confronted by God's strange and preposterous promise, "Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, 'Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?'" (17:17).

No, experience indicates that such things just do not happen.

Yet, despite his laughter, despite his doubt, Abraham was a man of faith. It had been his faith that had led him to answer God's call to leave his home in Haran and journey to a strange and unknown land. It had been this same faith that sustained him in the years that had followed.

Call him "Isaac"

During these years in Canaan Abraham had greatly prospered and it would have to be admitted that God's providence had hovered over him and granted him both blessing and security.

Yet, the experience in Canaan for all of this, was considerably less than what God had promised and was promising again: "And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant..." (17:19) and "I will give to you, and to your descendants after you... the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession..." (17:24).

God also had a sense of humor: since Abraham had laughed at his promise of a child to their old age, God would give them that child and instruct them to recall his name Isaac. So the child would be named for his parents' laughter at God's promise.

So, Abraham and Sarah, though they found God's



NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851

To Topdress Alfalfa

Fall is one of the good times to make an application of a phosphorus-potash fertilizer on alfalfa fields. After the last cutting and before the ground freezes alfalfa plants will be strengthened by extra amounts of both phosphorus and potash as found in the 0-20-20 or 0-15-30 fertilizers. Nitrogen should not be needed on established stands of alfalfa; also, the application of manure to stands of alfalfa to be kept for another season is not suggested because the nitrogen in the manure will encourage grasses and weeds that will tend to crowd out the alfalfa plants. Manure should be applied to ground going to row crops next year. Well fed, healthy alfalfa plants going into the winter should give maximum yields next summer.

To Clean Corn Crib

The need for more attention to the cleaning and spraying of the corn crib, or other corn storage, still exists on many farms. The old corn should be removed before the new corn is put into the crib. Also, the structure or bin should be sprayed with an insecticide such as Malathion or Methoxychlor to eliminate all grain insects. A residual spray on all parts of the storage should kill insects and insure good keeping quality for the new crop. Corn continues to be a very valuable farm product and effort should be made to put it into good storage facilities. The spraying should be done at least 24 hours before new grain is put into the crib.

To Make

High-Moisture Corn

The practice of soring high-moisture corn is gaining among livestock and dairy producers. Many fields of corn are approaching the correct time to be harvested

promise incomprehensible, when they stopped laughing and doubting, began to believe in and trust the Lord who had blessed them so richly in the past. And because they believed, they received what God promised, and the covenant was fulfilled.

Abraham laughed at God's promise, but he went on to believe and see the promise become a reality.

So may we move on beyond our doubts to faith. (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.)

Agrifacts...

The farmer always had to wrestle with the weather. The first autumn summer was 1974. It rained one-half inch in May, a three-inch fall in June and ice was 1/2 inch thick in

in this manner. According to research workers the best moisture content for high-moisture ear corn is to be ground when 30 to 35 percent moisture. For high-moisture shelled corn the kernel moisture should be between 25 and 30 percent. The feeding of high-moisture ground ear corn or shelled corn is becoming very popular in most areas of the country. With the harvesting of high-moisture corn the crop can be removed from the field earlier with less down stalks and the seeding of fall grain can be made earlier. On the other side, when the crop is made into high-moisture corn the possibility of selling the corn is limited in most areas.

To Provide

Water Supply

Since the first week in October was Fire Prevention Week, we're reminded of the need of an adequate supply of water to fight farm fires. Plans might be made in advance for this emergency. Farmers with farm ponds should have sufficient supply of water providing the fire truck can get within 25 feet of the water; this means an all-weather lane or road leading to the pond. Fire trucks are heavy and in wet weather or during the spring dirt lanes of sod fields might be too soft to permit the truck to get to the water. We urge some attention to the need of having a stone or gravel road to the edge of the pond. A fire truck bogged down in the mud between a hard road and your pond will not be of much help in putting out the fire. Be prepared for any fire emergency.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, Oct. 11

Travelogue series sponsored by the Paradise Rotary Club at the Conestoga Valley School. The "Alaskan Adventureland" will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 12

4-H Goat show at the Kimberton Fairgrounds 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 14

Garden Spot Young Farmers meeting on Fertilizer beginning at 7:45 p.m. in the ag classroom of the Garden Spot High School.

District & 7 of Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers meeting at the Centre Presbyterian Church, New Park, York County at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 15

District 6 of Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers meeting at Johnnie's Restaurant, North East Md., 7:00 p.m.

Berks Co. Baby Beef Roundup at the Leesport Market, Leesport 3:00 p.m.

Gardening Workshop at the PSU Campus in Schuylkill Co. 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 16

Dillsburg Fair which runs through the 18th.

Saturday, Oct. 18

Four wheel drive pull at the Rough and Tumble Track Kinzers 7:00 p.m.