

Farm Commentary



By Dieter Krieg

Equal responsibility

Something is apparently rotten in Harrisburg, and if it's tied in with government that shouldn't be too surprising.

Earlier this year I walked into a man's barn which had manure scattered in the stalls and in the litter alley. Cows and calves were running around loose in the same stable. The pipeline was so covered with dust and splattered manure that I had to examine it closely to be sure it wasn't the vacuum line.

Up in the feed alley there was an accumulation of paper bags, baler twine and scraps of hay. The place was filthy.

As though the inside of the barn wasn't bad enough, the exterior conditions were equally shameful. Some of the cows were even in disgraceful shape, especially their feet because the dairyman didn't believe in letting his cows out. That's why they were allowed to run loose inside the stanchion barn - for some exercise and heat detection.

The mess didn't stop there - it carried over to the house and surroundings as well, but that doesn't concern either me or the health officials.

That particular farm was by far the

sloppiest I have ever seen, and ironically, it has a reputation as the home of one of the highest producing herds in the state. DHIA testers have made observations basically the same as my own. Breed officials and representatives from a national magazine - have walked away in disgust.

The fieldman from the dairy cooperative has attempted to correct the situation on numerous occasions - even going as far as shutting the individual off four times within a year.

Each time the dairyman was cut off, the decision was overruled in Harrisburg, according to the milk inspector.

I checked into the situation myself one day and was given the typical run-around.

My opinion is - if 99 farmers out of 100 can abide by the rules and regulations of the health department, the 100th fellow can too. And he should no matter what kind of influence he may or may not have in Harrisburg.

The fellow who ignores quality and health standards and/or DHIA testing regulations gives the entire industry a bad image.

Appreciate the inspector

Fieldmen from dairy cooperatives are probably some of the least appreciated men involved in the dairy business.

I'm not proud to admit it, but I remember when I used to get nervous about seeing him pull up to the milkhouse in his car and then check off a couple of things he wasn't satisfied with. There was never a comfortable feeling involved with that, and I'm sure I'm not by myself in feeling this way.

It wasn't until after I was shut off for three days for high leucocyte counts that my appreciation took a turn in the opposite direction. Then it finally became clear to me that the inspector is of more benefit than a hindrance. Maybe that's debatable in some cases and with some inspectors - but that's my thought now.

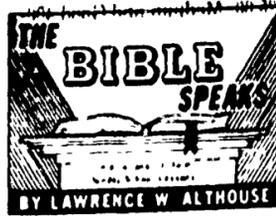
In my own experience, several years ago, I was concerned about the leucocyte problem (and accompanying cases of mastitis - much of it subclinical) but I wasn't concerned enough. It wasn't until after drastic steps were taken by the dairy that I straightened things up. In the meantime lots of profits were lost - not just because of a lost market for three days - but because of reduced production for weeks and months

As a result of it, I've come to the conclusion that it's wise to pay a little closer attention to the milk inspector. Yet, I wonder how many dairymen really appreciate the fieldman from the cooperative. And I'll admit that if I were dairying today I'd get nervous about seeing him come. But I'd heed his advice more.

Dairy specialists, veterinarians and milk inspectors tell us about various problems and potential problems encountered on the dairy farm. Mastitis is one subject they dwell upon most frequently. Recently Don Ace, Penn State dairy specialist, stated that 20 per cent of milk production is lost when the leucocyte count reached 800,000. At a level of 15 million the cut in production could be as high as 40 per cent.

Some time ago the Holstein-Friesian World published a report which said that at least 50 per cent of the nation's dairy cows become infected with mastitis, and of those that do, the National Mastitis Council says three out of four will be infected for 75 per cent of their milking lives.

The Council figures that the disease costs the dairyman \$100 per cow per year. I'm sure the fieldman could save dairymen a portion of this expense if they'd just listen a little more.



PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Lesson for November 9, 1975

Background Scripture: Genesis 28:10-22; 32:1-33.4
Devotional Reading: Galatians 1:10-17.

Dreams were very important in the life of Israel and his family.

Two dreams had changed Israel's life: the mysterious dream of a heavenly ladder as he fled the wrath of his brother, Esau, and the strange nocturnal wrestling with a heavenly messenger from God himself. Because of his dreams, crafty Jacob had become Israel, God's chosen heir to the covenant.

"I had a dream..."

Joseph, his second youngest son, also was a dreamer. The only difference was that Joseph's dreams got him into serious trouble and almost cost him his life.

Of course there was a troubled household. Israel had two wives, Rachel and Leah, and two concubines. That alone was reason for jealousy and tension. Furthermore, Israel had children by the two wives and the two concubines and the competition between the four women was reflected in the twelve children. Such a household was bound to arouse suspicion of favoritism and in Israel's house it was more than just a "suspicion."

Rachel, to begin with, was his favorite wife and Joseph, his son by Rachel, was his favorite son. What's more, the favoritism showed, particularly in Israel's gift to Joseph of a beautiful multi-colored coat.

So Joseph was his father's favorite and there is the suggestion that perhaps he was a bit of a "spoiled brat"! The problem was not just with his dreams, but with the way he related to his brothers. What he said and did was almost guaranteed to provoke their jealous resentment.

One did not have to be a mental giant to interpret his dreams: both of them rather clearly indicated that Joseph saw himself as greatly superior to his brothers. The brothers understandably interpreted the dreams to indicate that Joseph thought that he was in a class apart. "Here comes this dreamer..."

Actually, however, the dreams were precognitive in nature: they foretold something that was to come to pass in the future. They represented not just Joseph's inflated self-image, but a situation that was actually to occur in the years ahead: his brothers would eventually bow to him many years later!

But to the brothers the dreams spoke, not of the future, but of the present and they bitterly determined to do away with this "spoiled brat"! Thus, we see the natural consequence that often follows from the presence of pride and prejudice side by side: violence!

Still, there was more at work than just pride and prejudice - there was also God's providence. For as the seething brothers plotted to



NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith
County Agr Agent
Telephone 191-6851

To Protect Water Pipes

Colder weather is soon to come and exposed water pipes should get some protection. They may be buried at least 24 inches into the soil, or wrapped with electric heating cable. Water supplies are a constant need on most farms and to make repairs, or thaw out frozen pipes when temperatures are near zero can be avoided. The electric cable is a very easy way to prevent freezing but directions should be followed in applying the cable. If any splicing or cutting is to be done, an electrician should be consulted or do the work. Mishandling of the cable could result in a fire hazard.

To Handle New Corn Carefully

The grinding of the current ear corn crop for livestock is a very common practice as soon as it is picked; however, with high moisture content there could be a problem of heating and molding of this freshly ground corn chop. We suggest that livestock and dairy producers grind frequently rather than only once per week. Most of this new corn that has not been heat dried, will start to mold after about 48 hours in the bag or in a feeder. Moldy corn could be toxic to many animals especially breeding females, and extreme care should be exercised to prevent it from spoiling.

To Winterize Farm Machinery

Freezing weather means trouble in water-cooled motors and engines unless there is anti-freeze added, or the motor drained. The motors used daily often are prepared for colder weather, but those on combines or balers are sometimes forgotten and allowed to freeze. Also, the protection of machinery from the weather is very important during the winter and we urge all farmers to get their machinery under cover as soon as the last work is done in the fall. A separate machinery shed is recommended so that all of the machinery supplies, and livestock are not housed in the main barn. Machinery wet from snow or rain mean

kill him, Reuben, the oldest of the brothers, was moved by God to intervene so that Joseph's life could be saved. The brothers intended Joseph's death, but God intended for him to survive and live to do important things for him.

Even in the jealousy-ridden, hate-infested home of Israel, there was an opportunity for the grace of God to thwart the evil of man and bring good out of a bad situation. God salvaged victory out of the seeming defeat of Joseph at Dothan. From that defeat there came an ultimate victory for God and his will.

So, despite pride and prejudice in Israel's household, God's providence prevailed.

rusty machinery, and rust is the main enemy of a longer machinery life.

To Consider Nitrogen Purchase

The annual question of when is the best time to buy fertilizer, and especially nitrogen, is facing most farmers this fall. This time last year there were indications of shortages and higher prices in the spring, however, that did not happen and many growers could have bought cheaper by waiting until spring. According to our Extension Agronomist, James Eakin, at Penn State the reverse might be true this coming winter and spring. His suggestion is to buy nitrogen now and store, if possible, or apply to heavy soils with vegetative cover. Due to the possibility of natural gas shortages this winter or spring, fertilizer prices might be higher next spring. In most years, the early ordering and accepting of lime and fertilizer needs has been to the advantage of the producer.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, Nov. 8

Keystone International Livestock Exposition slated for the Farm Show Building. Runs through the 14th. For complete schedule see story in this edition.

Wednesday, Nov. 12

Southeastern Pa. Fruitgrowers meeting to be held at the Gilbertsville Fire Hall. For further information contact Herbert Wetzel at the Berks Co. Extension office.

Thursday, Nov. 13

E-town young farmers meeting on corn production. E-town H.S. ag classroom at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 14

Tillage and soil management meeting at the Willow Valley Motor Inn 7:45 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 17

Pa. Farm and Power Equipment Association convention in Taminent Resort Hotel.

Tuesday, Nov. 18

Lebanon Co. DHIA banquet at the Schaefferstown Fire Hall 7:00 p.m.

PUNCH LINE OF THE WEEK

