



# Lancaster Farming

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS

BY DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR

### Milk across the ocean

An editorial appearing on this page two months ago pointed out the need to correct a severe sanitation problem on a Pennsylvania dairy farm. Those responsible for carrying out the rules and regulations of their respective sanitation departments have since acknowledged the existence of conditions referred to in the Nov. 8 commentary, and have taken steps to correct the situation.

If my writing about the problem influenced the initiation of corrective measures, then I am sincerely pleased.

But a far greater problem confronts the nation's dairy industry as a whole.

This column can call attention to it, but it will have to be the dairymen and their marketing organizations who have to blow the whistle, and their own horn.

The problem is imported dairy products, and it's three-pronged.

Our lead story on page 1 hints that Secretary Butz may betray this nation's dairy industry by making a deal with Europe to swap our grain for their cheese and butter. That's one prong of the problem.

Prong number two is that our present trade agreements do not impose countervailing duties against subsidized dairy imports from foreign countries. Most European dairy products are subsidized by their respective governments and it presents U.S. farmers with an unfair competitive factor. At least that's the way we view it from this side of the ocean. It should be pointed out, however, that foreign nations are only trying to protect themselves. Granted, the imposition of countervailing duties would favor the U.S. dairy industry, and, sure enough, we would be taking an additional step towards protecting our markets. It's a delicate matter with definite political overtones.

The third prong is the most obvious of all to me and it's one of which I can speak as an "eye-witness," rather than just a student of events in Washington and elsewhere.

Sanitation is the problem

Some dairy specialists at universities and farmer cooperatives have made accusations that foreign cheeses have arrived at these shores in rotten or near rotten condition. I can't confirm that and would hope that such a scandalous situation is untrue.

But I can confirm that dairy sanitation standards as we know them are almost unheard of in West Germany. Being a native of Germany, I reveal this fact with anything but pride. Nevertheless, some German dairymen produce milk under the filthiest conditions imaginable. The problem isn't a lack of proper facilities or knowledge, but simply a matter of low priority. Neither the government nor many farmers consider sanitation regulations to be important enough to worry about.

It would be unfair to single out just one country when other European nations are being accused of the same lackadaisical attitude. At any rate, the sad conclusion is that nothing has been done about it.

If American dairymen might be swept aside in favor of European dairymen, as Butz hinted in his London speech, then it's about time the industry starts blowing its own horn a little more. I'm all in favor of sanitary regulations which U.S. dairymen have to abide by, even though some points on the score sheet border on the ridiculous. And I like foreign cheeses.

But I don't think it's fair for our dairy products, which are produced under government imposed quality standards, to be placed alongside products from foreign countries which do not have similar health regulations. And I think if the facts concerning these matters are put before the public, they'll bend an ear our way. After all, American housewives are the most persnickety creatures on Earth.

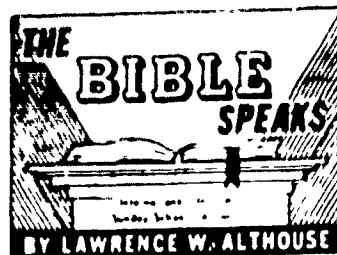
All the dairy industry has to do is blow its own horn a little more often and a little louder, even if it takes a couple more pennies per hundredweight to provide the power.

### A tip of the hat

A note of appreciation goes to Sperry-New Holland Machine Company and Lancaster's WGAL-TV for the informative agriculture program which was aired this past Monday evening. That, in my opinion, is what's needed to bring about a better understanding between the people who produce food and those who consume it.

Sponsored by Lancaster County's

own Sperry-New Holland Machine Company, the half-hour program presented scenes of the 1976 Farm Show in a way which should have been of interest to non-farm as well as farm residents. I would think that such a presentation has educational and entertaining values, and all I can add to a "thank-you" is that I hope we'll see more of it in the future.



#### THEY LAUGHED AT HIM

Lesson for January 18, 1976

Background Scripture: Matthew 8: 1 through 9:34.

Devotional Reading: Psalms 61.

I'm sure that Jesus found people laughing at him more than once, but Matthew records at least one occasion when Jesus was the butt of ridicule and laughter.

In Matthew 9 he is approached by an official of the synagogue to come and raise his daughter who has just died. Arriving at the official's home, Jesus looks at the girl and announces that she "is not dead but sleeping" (9:24). The people found Jesus' announcement so ridiculous that they forgot the solemnity of the occasion and broke into derisive laughter.

Yet, it was Jesus who had the last laugh: "he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose!" (9:25).

#### No shrinking violets

Although healing was an integral part of the mission of the early churches, the ministry of healing today is often greeted by Christians with derision and ridicule. If someone claims that his faith has made him whole, his associates are likely to regard him with good-natured amusement.

As one who has participated in the ministry of healing for more than ten years, I have encountered derision from all kinds of people, but most significantly from church people themselves.

At the same time, I have noticed a remarkable change in the attitudes of some people over the past few years. Some cynics are no longer laughing. Some, in fact, are beginning to take a new interest in the Christian concept of wholeness of mind, body and spirit.

#### According to your faith

When we study Jesus' own ministry of healing, we find a recurrent theme throughout: the active receptivity (or faith) of those who were healed. Note the affirmative conviction of Jewish official: "... come and lay your hand on her, and she will live" (9:18). There is complete certainty in the man's heart and mind; he does not say "perhaps it will do some good, maybe you will heal her," but "she will live!"

This is no less true of the woman suffering from a hemorrhage. Determinedly, she approaches him, saying to herself: "If only I touch his garment, I shall be made well" (9:22).

Even when the two blind men approach Jesus, it is apparent that they are convinced that he will restore their sight and when he asks, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?", their response is definitely affirmative: "Yes, Lord!" (9:28).

The one thing that these people - a little girl pronounced dead, a woman with a hemorrhage for twelve years, and two blind men - have in common is their faith, their receptivity



## NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith  
County Agr. Agent  
Telephone 794 6851

**To Use Quality Seeds**  
Seed ordering time is at hand and we continue to stress the use of certified seeds rather than to use seeds of unknown origin and quality. Certified seed may cost some more but usually gives greater yields with less weed and disease problems. If home-grown seeds are to be used, they should be tested for germination and weed seed content. Seeds that are offered for sale must be tested by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. To plant seeds of unknown quality is poor management and could result in weed or disease infection and a poor crop. With the cost of the various inputs top quality seed should give the desired results.

#### To Respect Drug Regulations

Many types of drugs and chemicals are used in modern agricultural production. All of them have been approved for sale by the parent company and federal organization. However, it is up to each producer to use them properly and follow the directions on the package or container. The withdrawal period should be recognized very rigidly in order to protect the consumer and have a quality product. To take shortcuts is very risky, and could result in the loss of the market and great damage to the farming image. Records should be kept of every treatment to animals or to crops so that proof can be produced in case of question. Read the directions before using a product and then follow the recommendations.

#### To Protect

##### Newborn Animals

Many baby pigs and lambs will be born in the next few months. Some of these may arrive in unheated buildings and need prompt attention. To permit the young animals to be chilled when born will usually result in sickness and loss. Producers should be on the job 24 hours a day when farrowing or lambing time arrives. Separation from the rest of the herd or flock is suggested for several days and the use of heat lamps or other supplemental heat will more than pay for the extra time and investment. Don't permit the newborns to be on their own during these cold winter days and nights. Extra care and attention will surely increase profits.

#### To Use Credit Wisely

This is good advice but many times it is hard to follow and to put into

to what Jesus will give to them. Let others laugh if they want to, these people were made whole and they knew it!

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practice. Many successful people in this use credit as a management tool to expand or to run their business; and there is nothing wrong with using credit; in fact most of us do need credit at one time or another. The big problem confronting some folks is they are extended too much credit and can't meet their repayment obligations. We're aware that bankers and other credit concerns are very much on top of the amount of credit that a farm or a business can handle. In order to get credit the lender wants to know the repayment capacity of the business, a financial statement, a credit rating, and just how the money is to be spent. Good farm records and a history of good management will go far in getting additional credit. We urge considerable attention to these two factors at this time of the year. Good records along with good management results in good finances and successful farming.

## Farm Calendar

Jan. 19

Twin Valley Adult Farmers Class meets at Twin Valley High School vocational shop for welding and cutting seminar. 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 20

Inter-State Milk Producers District Meeting, Chestnut Level Presbyterian Church 11:45 a.m.

Ephrata Area Farmers meeting at Ephrata High School, 7:45 p.m.

Cedar Crest Young Farmers meeting at Cedar Crest High School, 7:30 p.m. Burlington County Holstein Tour in Lebanon County.

Jan. 21

Regional Vegetable Growers meeting at the Coca-Cola Building in Lancaster. 9:30 a.m.

Jan. 22

Chester County DHIA banquet, East Bradywine Fire Hall, Guthriesville, 7 p.m.

Jan. 23

Inter-State District Meeting, Quarryville Methodist Church, 12 noon.

Jan. 26

Farm Management Workshop, Dr. Sam Dum, speaker; 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, Lebanon.

Jan. 27

Cattle Feeders Day at the Farm and Home Center, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Swine Producers Meeting for Lebanon County, in the Municipal Building, Lebanon. 1:30 p.m.

One nervous new father was telling his office pals what a hard time he had when his son was born. A secretary said, "Who had the baby, anyway?" "My wife did," he answered, "but she had an anesthetic."