

# Lancaster Farming

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS

BY DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR

### Changing attitudes

It's amusing how attitudes and styles have changed during the last decade or two

For example, the kind of clothes my mother wouldn't let me wear anywhere but in the barn are now the rage of teenagers across the country

Not too many years ago the countryside was considered to be the boondocks and those who lived there were somewhat out of touch of reality Today everyone seems to be wanting to move to a farm, or at least close to one. Have you heard the ad on the radio which makes a big deal about some apartment complex being right across from a working dairy farm? The commercial starts out with a deep "moo" from a cow, and the announcer follows it with: "What's a cow doing in a commercial for...? Anyway, living next door to a farm is the "in" thing to do because it represents serenity, peace, fresh air, and all those other neat things far-

mers have known about for a long time

Farmers have a reputation for skipping an appointment with their razor from time to time, and that, too, is no longer their exclusive. The unshaven look is "in" along with bib overalls, faded jeans, a house in the country, and fresh air

Not to be forgotten is the impression many people now have of farmers Town folk are finding out that farmers are businessmen, and that their wives often have enviable kitchens. While they're still not fully understood, it can be said that farmers are beginning to receive more attention And last of all, but certainly not least, people are finding out that the men who work with animals and "dirt" aren't as dumb as they thought they were. In fact they're copying many of the farmers' ways and competing for a home in the "boondocks" more fiercely than ever.

### Close places, wide prices

There's too much of a spread in prices paid for champion animals and those farther down the line, a knowledgeable and experienced cattleman said recently.

The man expressing that opinion was Francis Murren, who exhibited the very first grand champion 4-H steer at the Farm Show 50 years ago. On hand to present the purple and golden banner to this year's Farm Show grand champion, the 67-year-old Murren noted that back in '26 there was only a spread of 12 cents between the top price paid for his animal and the average price paid for the remaining steers.

His reasoning behind the statement is that the kids at the Farm Show all had to work hard to get there in the first place, and their

efforts should be more evenly rewarded.

In most livestock competition, the judge frequently comments about the closeness of the contest, particularly among the top several placings. Taking this into consideration, can we really justify a spread of several thousand dollars between a grand champion and reserve grand champion animal? The distance in prices is often again as wide between the second-high individual and the third-place exhibitor.

Mr Murren, involved with beef cattle for all of his life, and an Adams County 4-H beef club leader for more than 20 years, believes the system could be more fair and representative of the efforts put forth by contestants. His opinion merits a lot of consideration

### Life on the farm

A fiercely cold wind, carrying an endless cloud of icy snowflakes, battered my bare face. Coming straight at me from the west, it made it nearly impossible to see, and sometimes even difficult to breathe.

My feet were beginning to get numb as I drove back and forth along the lane from the barn to the road, clearing the snow away with an older model farm tractor which had no cab and only a small blade which wasn't designed for pushing snow. Progress was slow, and oftentimes I wondered if it wasn't really the storm which was winning this battle.

When milking time approached, I had been out on the tractor for nearly three continuous hours. My coat, hat, pants, and boots were covered with snow and ice. My face felt as though it was melting when I stepped into the warmth of the milk house to assemble the milking machines and connect the pipeline to the bulk tank

Outside, there was no let-up on the steady assault of the storm. More than a foot of snow was already on the ground, and there

was no telling how deep some of the drifts might be. The wind whistled; sheets of tin were starting to come loose; doors rattled; and the electric wires heaved back and forth, making me wonder when they might snap.

While cows waited to be milked, I wished I could turn each one of them off. I didn't want to be milking that afternoon, and I stalled as much as I could, frequently walking to the windows to observe what was going on outside. If those electric wires snapped then there would really be trouble because cows do have to be milked regardless of the weather or presence of electricity.

The highway was approximately a quarter mile away. A pale-yellow beam of light faintly penetrated the curtain of snow and for an instant there was a flash of joy that ran all through my body. As the lights approached the end of the lane, I silently repeated "turn in, turn in!" to myself. The vehicle kept going and all of a sudden I felt even more tired and weak than before.

I lifted the lid of the bulk tank and stared

**THE BIBLE SPEAKS**

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

**DOES GOD SEND YOU?**

Lesson for January 25, 1976



**NOW IS THE TIME...**

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**Background Scripture:** Matthew 9:35 through 10:42  
**Devotional Reading:** Isaiah 52:7-10

The Bible speaks much of God calling people, but it also has a great deal to say about his sending people as well.

God sent Adam and Eve out of Eden and into the world. He sent Abraham to a distant land unknown to him. He sent Jacob and his sons into Egypt and later he sent Israel out of Egypt under Moses. With Joshua leading, he sent them into the Promised Land.

Kings and prophets were also "sent," and when Jesus was born into this world, writers of the New Testament said he was "sent." Whenever man encounters God, it seems he is sent out into the world with a task or mission.

**Behold, I send you . . .**

Matthew sums up succinctly Christ's mission: "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and infirmity" (9:35).

But Christ's mission was not limited to Christ alone. It was obvious that the mission field was greater than any one man, even this one man! Looking with compassion upon the great masses of humanity whom time and effort would not allow him to reach personally, Jesus said to his disciples: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (9:37).

It became apparent to the disciples that the Messianic mission was intended for them as well. They had heard his proclamation of the kingdom. They had listened for hours to his teachings. Now he "gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity" (10:1). Thus empowered, he says to them: "Behold I send you out . . ." (10:16).

**Do not be anxious**

So the disciples were sent out by Jesus and discipleship continues to involve being sent for Jesus Christ. The "harvest" is still "plentiful" as it was in the days of Jesus' mission in the flesh. Disciples of Christ are still praying "the Lord of harvest to send out laborers into his harvest," and Jesus is still empowering his followers to preach, teach, and heal.

The circumstances of our individual missions may differ greatly, but no one

**To Become Interested In Proper Land Use**

At a recent meeting the subject of proper land use and the preservation of agricultural land was given a good discussion, many folks are interested in this subject but few seem to be doing much about it I'd like to urge folks to learn all of the facts about the proper use of our good land and then let local government officials know about it Public opinion out in each township will be heard by local officials and give them some idea of the direction they should be going Some local officials have been blamed for "dragging their feet" on preserving farm land; if the majority of local folks want land preserved, then township officials should know of it and take proper action.

**To Reduce Feed Waste**

Feed is one of the major costs in livestock and poultry production. Whether it is home grown or purchased, it should be used efficiently at all times. Some feeders permit the animals to waste both silage and grain by working too much down at one time Other feed troughs are in poor condition and allow feed to drop out the bottom. All producers are urged to check their feeders and feeding practices to be sure that costly grain is not going out with the manure Rats and mice are very expensive rodents to have around adding to additional pounds of wasted feed

**To Check Barn Ventilation**

The recent cold weather might reveal the need of improved ventilation in some dairy and livestock barns When windows, walls, or ceilings become wet from condensation it is a sign of the need of more ventilation, or more insulation Most barns are carrying a capacity of livestock at this time of the year The warm, moisture-laden air should be

who attempts to follow the Lord is without a mission of some kind. Some of those missions are quiet and subtle; some are loud and flashy; but every Christian has a mission; every disciple is sent by God.

We may feel inadequate, but the key is to be found in Jesus' assurance to his disciples: ". . . do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say . . . for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you" (10:20).

Make no mistake: if you're a Christian, God is sending you too!

removed from the barn in order to prevent condensation Also, extra insulation may be needed to reduce the contact between warm and very cold air Electric exhaust fans are strongly suggested to remove the foul air and improve herd health

### Farm Calendar

Jan. 26

Chickies Creek Flood Control Meeting at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 7:30 p.m.

Pennsylvania Farmers Union state convention at the Sheraton Inn, Harrisburg, program lasts through the 27th.

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.

Franklin County Extension Dairy Day, 10 to 3 at the New Franklin Community Center.

Regional Turf and Ornamental School Jan. 27-28 at Park View Manor, Hershey.

Ephrata Young Farmers meet at 7:45 at the High School; swine management and buildings will be emphasized.

Jan. 28

Franklin County Swine Producers Meeting, 1-3 p.m. at the County Administration Building, Chambersburg.

Lime and Fertilizer Conference at Penn State, lasts through 30th.

Jan. 29

Annual meeting of the Lancaster County Farm and Home Foundation. 6:30 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.

Elizabethtown Young Farmers meet at 7:30 at the High School; crop reporting service will be highlighted.

Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association Leadership Training Conference at Penn State, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Feb. 2

Land use meeting 7:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

into it for a moment before continuing to assemble the milking equipment. The milk was within three inches from the top. When the agitator was turning, it actually spilled some milk over the edges. Each inch in height represented about 200 pounds of milk. I guessed it would hold 500 more pounds in the agitator were turned off. The cows would produce around 1,000 pounds tonight.

The phone rang. A neighbor wanted to know if the milk truck had picked up our milk yet. "No," I said, "we expected him

this afternoon - the driver's wife had called about making sure the lane was cleared, but he must not have returned from Philly yet."

Two-thousand pounds of milk and 15 hours later, the milk truck pulled up to the milk house. The snow had crippled things all over the place - at the milk plant, on the roads, and on farms. Farmers lost a lot of money during that February storm four years ago, and milk truck drivers lost an awful lot of sleep trying to get their tankers from one place to another.