

LIFE on the farm



By DIETER KRIEG

"Good morning, this is Dieter Krieg Woodbine . . . I have two cows in heat for late service this afternoon . . . one to be bred to "Ivanhoe Star," the other to an Angus bull . . . thank you." With that I hung up the phone, picked up the registration papers for "Blossom" and "Cindy" and walked back to the barn.

Down in the exercise lot, most of the cows were basking in the sun's shine. Some were nosing around fence lines and an adjacent corn crib. "Blossom" and "Cindy," however, were riding each other almost constantly and "Cindy" was bellowing loud enough to be heard all over the township.

"I'd hate to lose "Cindy," I thought to myself. She was one of the most profitable cows in the herd, but if she couldn't come back with a calf the following year, her days would be numbered. This was going to be her fifth and last chance to be bred. After four unsuccessful services — all without explanation from either the service technician or veterinarian — she had reached her limit.

It was almost milking time when Lloyd, the representative from the

breeders' cooperative arrived. He stepped out of his car, unlatched the trunk, pulled his boots on, and opened the liquid nitrogen tank. Curls of vapor crawled out of the top and slid down the sides gracefully while he removed two ampules of semen from two separate canes. He dropped them into an ice-water bath and allowed the life-giving mixture to thaw while he wrote out appropriate breeding slips.

"What do you think?" I asked Lloyd when the job was done. "Everything seems okay," he answered. His words weren't very reassuring. There was no sign of anything being wrong, but that had been the case on previous breedings too — not just with "Cindy," but with other cows as well. "It's always the better cows which are difficult to get with calf," I remarked. Many other dairymen have said the same thing as they time and time again face the cruel reality of not getting a good cow with calf.

Fortunately, this particular episode of life on the farm came to a happy ending. "Cindy" conceived and stayed in the herd for a number of years thereafter. But some other cows weren't as lucky

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Nixnutz's Corral

By BARNEY NIXNUTZ

"All the news that's unimportant, but still interesting."



They're all wet

Word has been received by this roving reporter that Idaho potato farmers have developed a new method for growing potatoes which eliminates the need for irrigation. The development is expected to cut production costs by the millions of dollars. How do they do it?

By planting alternating rows of potatoes with onions. The onions make the potatoes' eyes water and presto! the need for additional water is unnecessary.

Big playground

A grade-schooler from town visited a farm one day and went bananas over all the nifty things he saw. It was like a huge playground to him and he and his young farm friend had a good time with calves, cats, forts built out of straw, and anything else. After all this frolicing, the youngster from

town took a moment to wonder about it all.

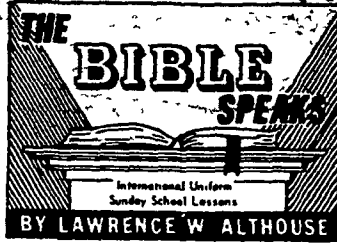
"Tell me, where does your Daddy work?" the young lad asked.

Good suggestion

A cow was in the process of giving birth to a calf while a little six-year-old girl stood close by witnessing the miraculous event. Speechless throughout the process, the pig-tailed youngster eventually turned to her father, who was assisting the cow, and asked quite innocently: "Wouldn't it be easier if cows had zippers?"

Hard to see

Who was the County Extension Agent who showed up at a dinner one day, and when he was introduced, the emcee suggested he get up on a chair so everyone could see him?



THE MOST FOR THE LEAST

Lesson for April 4, 1976

Background Scripture: Matthew 25.

Devotional Reading: Matthew 25:19-30.

There isn't anyone who hasn't seen Jesus at some time.

Of course, that doesn't mean we recognized him. More than likely we didn't. Nevertheless, you have seen him and so have I.

Recently I saw him in a prison cell. He appeared in the guise of a young man who has been in and out of trouble for most of his twenty years. In his haunted eyes I saw a life that is still redeemable — providing he gets some help, providing some one takes an interest in him and shows him that all is not lost.

When did we see you? I saw him also in a convalescent home. He appeared as a frail woman of seventy-five who for the past few years has passed each solitary day in the confines of her tiny room. Her eyes are too weak to watch television; her hearing too poor to listen to the radio; her family is "too busy" to visit her. Jesus looked at me through her eyes and it was enough — he didn't need to say anything to me, my own conscience spoke loudly enough.

But there's nothing unique about my experience: everyone can see Jesus . . . if they look closely enough. Some of us have the opportunity to see him every day, perhaps often each day. He meets us in many different disguises, but he is ever walking, standing, and sitting along the paths we take each day.

You, for example. When did you last see him? Was it last night as you watched the evening news? Was it his face that looked at you through hunger-glazed eyes as the commentator spoke in matter-of-fact tones about hundreds of thousands dying of starvation in Africa? Perhaps like many you averted those eyes and complained about showing "such things" at mealtimes.

Then again, it may have been Jesus who came knocking at your door the other day and asking for used clothing and furniture for the family whose home was destroyed by fire. Perhaps it was Jesus whose disguised face appeared on the little brochure asking for support of community agencies and services.

As you did it. No matter where we go and what we do, Jesus is waiting for us in the lives of people who are hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, strangers, and in prison. And it is how we respond to him in these circumstances that matters in the long run. Not, what church do we go to, not how perfect or unperfect is our attendance, not the doctrines we affirm, or the respectability ascribed to us by others. However important these things may be — and they are — they are only peripheral to the basic question of how we respond



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851

To Fence Out Rabbits
Many calls received at the Extension Office refer to the control of rabbits in flower and vegetable gardens. It seems there is more trouble in the suburbs than in the rural areas. The solution is not easy because most of the repellents only last a few days at the best. I would suggest a chicken wire fence be built around the area as soon as the plants are set into

the ground. If this is not possible, then I'm at a loss to suggest a good method of preventing them from eating plants. The local Game Wardens may be in a position to provide traps, but the demand may exceed the supply and time of the Warden.

To Utilize Manure As A Fertilizer
This is the time of the year [Continued on Page 12]

Farm Calendar

Mon. April 5
Lancaster Co. FFA Public Speaking Contest, Willow Street Vo-Tech School, 1 p.m.

Octorara FFA banquet at Octorara High School, 6:30 p.m.

Lancaster County Poultry Association meets at the Farm and Home Center Board meeting of the Lancaster County Conservation District, 7:30 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center.

Manheim Young Farmers have meeting at the High School on estate planning.

Tue. April 6
FFA Poultry Judging Contest, Penn Manor High School, Millersville, at 1:30 p.m.

Spring Meeting, Plain and Fancy Restaurant, 7 p.m. for Lancaster County Farmers Association.

Cedar Crest Young Farmers meet, 7:30 p.m. at the vo-ag classroom. Program is weed and pest control in alfalfa and corn.

to our fellowmen in need, no matter how unlovely they may appear, and give our most for those whom Jesus called "the least of these my brethren."

(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.)

Wed. April 7
FFA parliamentary procedures contest, Willow Street Vo-Tech School 1 p.m.

Pennsylvania Food Day Panorama, 10 a.m. at the Penn Harris, Camp Hill Red Rose Beef and Lamb Club meets at the Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.

Thurs. April 8
Lancaster Co. Pork Producers Feeder Pig Sale, Lancaster Stockyards, 7 p.m. For 4-H and FFA members. Lebanon County FFA banquet, Tulpehocken United Church of Christ, 7 p.m.

Chickies Creek Watershed Association holds its first regular meeting, at Manheim Central Jr. High School (cafeteria). Program begins at 7:30 p.m.

Blue Mountain Dairy Goat Association meets 7:30 p.m. at the Schuylkill Haven campus of Penn State University.

Schuylkill Co. Ag. Extension board of directors meeting at the Extension Office, 8 p.m.

Fri. April 9
Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association meets at the Sheraton-Conestoga, Lancaster, 7 p.m.

Sat. April 10
The Rough and Tumble Historical Association, Kinzer, sponsors a 4-wheel drive pull, 7 p.m.

RURAL ROUTE By Tom Armstrong

