

Lancaster Farming

Serving The Central and Southeastern Pennsylvania Areas

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

BY DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR

Some \$200,000 questions

Holstein history was made this past Monday when a fine looking specimen of the breed sold for a whopping \$200,000. That's another world record. They don't seem to last long anymore. Apparently a lot of people are out to have the distinction of having paid the most for a black and white cow.

I've never seen the cow personally. Nor have I seen a professional's photograph of her. Nevertheless, I described her as a "fine looking specimen" because I've seen a picture of her head. I like it. But it and everything that's in back of it ain't worth \$200,000, if you ask me.

I wonder if these kind of prices are being paid with hopes of having a great many dairymen automatically conclude that this cow is the greatest of all time. That would certainly add an extra silver lining to bull calves sold out of her. And when the bull is of age, his semen will sell like hot cakes because a lot of dairymen would associate him with little more than the cow who sold at a fantastic price. And primarily just the price — completely forgetting that it's the milk in the bucket that pays the bills.

I'm not forgetting about type. But even so, a herd of excellent cows with only mediocre production isn't much good either. And selling dairy cows which are short on production while adequate on type isn't doing a good service to anyone either. On many occasions a cow has sold for a

whopping big price and yet she had records which the owner should be ashamed to have in print.

Are high cattle prices genuine? Are they being paid because that sort of genetic value is actually there? Or because someone wants to have his picture on the cover of the breed magazine and inflate his ego a little?

And how much of the price is paid just for a prestigious name?

I think these are legitimate questions for all dairymen to consider. After all, it's through their breeding fees that the big-time cattle buyers will receive their money. But in all likelihood, the dairyman will have to depend primarily on milk checks for his money — and possibly the sale of some youngstock. And you can't sell much milk or youngstock if that ampule isn't carrying everything you need. By that I mean more than just a fancy pedigree and an even fancier price.

While the sale of a Holstein for \$200,000 prompted this editorial comment, let it be known this was no attack on her or those associated with her. As a self-proclaimed "connoisseur" of Holsteins, I still like the cow's head. I associate such a head with great potential. But I also know that some other high priced cows and bulls ended up doing nothing for their breeds other than take publicity away from other individuals who were much more deserving.

Recommended reading

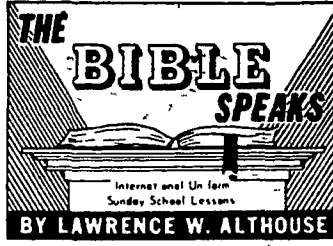
A feature story which won a first prize in a national contest last month appears in this week's issue. It offers readers two important messages. The first message is one which is heard a thousand or more times every year. And that hasn't ever been enough. And then there's a second message too.

A young publisher - writer - photographer from Wisconsin tells the tragic story of a man who had his hands caught in a corn picker for two

very long minutes. It's a moving story, and the author said it had the family in tears to just remember it. In fact, he admitted that his own eyes didn't remain dry during the interview.

Aside from describing a tragic event, the article brings out a feeling of admiration for the man who refused to quit, and for the community which came to his aid.

It's recommended reading. You'll find it on page 81.



BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

DOES CHRIST LIVE HERE?

Lesson for May 9, 1976



NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851

Background Scripture:
Ephesians 4:25 through 6:4; 1 Peter 3:1-12.
Devotional Reading:
Ephesians 4:25 through 5:2.

Paul is often accused of being a male chauvinist, and the fourth and fifth chapters of Ephesians - if we assume that they are representative of Paul's views - certainly seem to confirm that judgement:

Wives, be subject to your husbands ... (5:22)

... the husband is the head of the wife ... (5:23)

Those two statements alone seem sufficient to make countless women "see red."

Be subject to one another

Paul's reputation, I believe, is undeserved. For one thing, we must realize that Paul's view of women was actually miles and miles ahead of the views of most of his contemporaries. He frequently mentions them in a significant manner in his letters; sometimes giving the impression that the women have been more responsive to his ministry than many men. His recognition of the valuable role of women in the early church was in considerable conflict with many of the prevailing views in his society. Paul exalted women in a manner unmatched by most of his contemporaries.

Nevertheless, Paul was a man of the first century A.D. and he brought the light of the Christian Gospel to the family structure as he found it in that time. Paul's society generally did not value women and they had few rights in the home or the community. The power of the man was virtually unlimited.

Paul saw his task as exposing the family structure to the authority of Jesus Christ. Although it is hardly evident to us today, Paul's approach to the family was revolutionary! Although he did not call for the radical change of the family structure, his proposals for the inner dynamic of the family relationship brought sweeping changes into Christian families.

As Christ lived

What he was calling for was an entirely new spirit in the family. We can get hung-up on the idea of wives being "subject" to their husbands and the husband being the "head of the house." But what we must not miss is Paul's revolutionary thrust

To Improve Farm Image

What kind of an image do you present to the non-farm citizens of your community?? This might be of little interest to some folks but is really very important when it comes to the consumer. If farms and food producing facilities are clean, neat, and attractive, they could encourage folks, and especially youngsters, to want to drink more milk and eat more fresh farm products. A very important part of good marketing is to have attractive produce; have something to sell that appeals to the consumer. Farm homesteads that are clean, well painted, and attractive to the general public could entice folks to have more faith in top quality farm products. Make every effort to present a good image to you public at all times.

To Control Garden Insects

Many local gardens are growing well and we expect the usual infestation of insects to take their share. One of the safest insecticides to use is Sevin; this material is not very toxic and will do a good job of eliminating many common insects. Insects in the soil may be controlled by using Diazinon either worked into the topsoil before planting, or be side-dressing along the row. The major insecticides of the past including DDT, Dieldrin, or Chlordane should not be used in the garden or on any food or fiber crop. The following are the instructions of the can or package is very important; read them first and then apply the material.

To Mow Lawn Often

I realize that lawn mowing is a very regular chore this time of the year, but has to be done if good turf is desired. Most folks plan to mow at least once a week; however, this may not be often enough this time of the year with good growing weather. When the grass is permitted to get several inches tall, it is more of a shock to the plant to cut it off; turf men say that not more than one-third of the

for the family: the key is not so much who is "subject" to whom, but that in all that we do in the family we are to be governed by our reverence for Christ. "Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord!" It is their love for Christ that is to govern their relationships.

A husband arrived home from work one day and his wife told him that the new minister had been to see them and had asked a strange question of her: "Does Christ live here?" Did you tell them we are members at St. Luke's, that I'm on the board there and you teach Sunday school?" asked the husband. "He didn't ask that," replied his wife, "he only asked if Christ lives here ... and it didn't seem to mean the same thing." And it doesn't!

leaf length should be cut off at a time; this means mowing twice per week during good growing weather. Yes, the clippings should be removed when growth is rank because there could be a build-up of thatch that will encourage grass diseases and decrease the vitality of the grass plants. Good lawn care requires frequent mowing at this time of the year.

To Beware of Rabid Animals

Fortunately, we do not have very many cases of rabies in this part of the country; however, there is always danger of wild animals and bats being rabid. Years ago it was the stray dog during the heat of the summer that was the chief danger of rabies; this is not true at this time. Skunks and bats are the most common carriers of this infection. Also, young wild animals such as racoons, skunks, and squirrels may be infected. Youngsters are urged to leave these little animals in the wilds and not try to make pets from them. Also, youngsters should be warned about getting near stray or wild animals that are acting tame and friendly; they may have rabies. The control of bats is very difficult but folks should realize the potential danger from coming into contact of being bitten by them.

Farm Calendar

Today, May 8

Beekeepers meet at 2 p.m. at the apiary of James and Bonnie Mentzer, New Holland R2. Farm located next to the New Holland water reservoir off route 23 near Garden Spot High School.

Sunday, May 9

Mother's Day.

Monday, May 10

Baler maintenance workshop at 7 p.m. at Charlie Snyder's implement dealership on Route 443 between South Tamaqua and Lehighton. Meeting open to all farmers. Reservations should be made with Schuylkill County Extension Office.

The Central Dairy 4-H Club meets at the 4-H Center, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 12

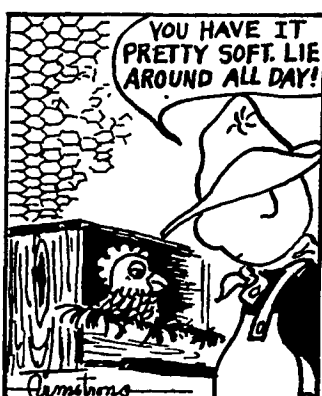
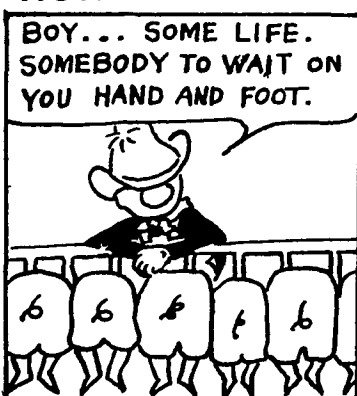
Executive Committee of Hunterdon County (New Jersey) Board of Agriculture meets at 8 p.m. in the Hunterdon County Extension Center.

Thursday, May 13

Regional FFA public speaking and parliamentary procedures contests at Lehigh Community College, 9:30 a.m. Agronomy workshop at Pequea Valley High School, 1 p.m. Blue Mountain Dairy Goals

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RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong