



EDITORIAL COMMENTS

BY DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR

Price and Pride out of place

Recently my wife informed me about a television ad which has since been called to the attention of dairy officials across the country. Some readers of *Lancaster Farming* may have seen it.

Although I personally have not seen the ad, I'm told it shows "Price" and "Pride" inside a dairy barn talking about the values to be had at their supermarket. As it turns out the item they plugged (at least in this area) was margarine.

Not surprisingly, the misrepresentation of advertising margarine out of a dairy barn lifted

some eyebrows as well as a few telephone receivers.

It's not the easiest mistake to understand, but we're told that these things happen. It's unfortunate that they do. Word received here is that those in a position to notify the supermarket chain about their error, were quick to do so, and they are to be commended for it.

Farmers as individuals and through their organizations have a continuous job ahead of them in trying to keep straight facts and a favorable image before the public.

My annual love affair

My annual love affair started a few months ago, and it happens every year. I take it all off, too, or just about anyway. It has something to do with hays, although it's not supposed to be confused with the Washington variety.

I'm in love with blue skies, golden grain fields, majestic corn, the scents of straw and alfalfa, bright sunshine, chirping crickets, the songs of birds, frog concerts, and the ever-widening memories of summers gone by.

We're in the height of Summer right now, and I'm thoroughly enjoying it. I always have. This season of long days and an abundance of life all around us is a time I always look forward to and remember fondly.

When I was just a little fellow in northern Germany I used to race across the stubble fields... chase butterflies... and pick flowers which grew wildly along the roadside. Always barefooted, my constantly moving feet were never bothered by either sharp stubbles or hot sand. And I enjoyed watching the horses

pull the binder along... and better yet was watching my favorite piece of equipment — the "Dreschkasten," (threshing machine). We played hide-and-go-seek among the shocks which dotted the flat countryside, just a short distance from the Baltic Sea.

And I remember the windmills which stood just at the edge of the village. Their huge arms twirled around and around, creaking all the while from the strain and stress. Inside there was a low rumble as millstones turned wheat and rye into flour.

I've never lost that fascination and appreciation for the wonderful things of Summer. The work sometimes lost its lustre after tossing hay bales day after day, but the season never did, and now I'll gladly tackle a hay field for the sake of totally submerging myself in the pleasures of summer's fresh air laced with the perfumes of the growing season. Dust and all.

Anybody need some help?

Excellent safety message

"Look out, slow down, drive carefully," is a message to be aired on 300 television stations across the country next week to inform motorists about the potential hazards of driving in the country. It's a message which is needed.

Produced and released by the Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute in Chicago, the 10-second television spot was drawn up from footage produced by the John Deere and International Harvester people.

The effort is designed to promote rural safety and is specifically targeted to drivers from urban areas who may find themselves out in the country for vacations or weekends. According to information supplied by the FIEI office, the spot will attempt to let motorists know what situations they might encounter on rural roads

and what various signs such as the SMV emblem and amber lights mean. The brief public service announcements are a part of "Farm Safety Week" which begins July 25.

Like so many other things, safety is not just a one week per year necessity, and it's certainly not one-sided when it comes to using the highways.

Although it's only a few who occasionally are not aware of the hazards they may be creating with their slow moving or extra wide (or long) vehicles and attachments, now's as good a time as any to remind those individuals that it's generally a good idea to pull off the road from time to time to allow motorists to pass by.

Watch out for yourself as well as the other guy — and do it every day.



BY LAWRENCE W. GIBBOUSE
Background Scripture:
Matthew 7:15-29; 1 John 4:1-12.

Devotional Reading: 1 Timothy 4:6-16.

Remember the old saying, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating?"

Well, for all of its simplicity, the saying is really a rather profound truth in life. The value or integrity of something is often best and most truly reflected in its performance. We may admire a beautiful automobile as it sits in the car dealer's showroom, but if, after we have purchased it, it doesn't run very well, it will not be worth nearly what we had assumed. We may drool over a certain item on the restaurant's menu, but if when the waiter brings it, it doesn't taste all that pleasing, the item will be a great disappointment. We may look forward eagerly to a play that is "simply great" but if, when we see it, we are not entertained or deeply moved, it will mean little to us.

Test the spirits

The test of the value of the pudding - like so many other things in life - is our own tasting of it and satisfaction or dissatisfaction.

Doesn't this apply to religion as well? We may argue about the relative merits of this belief or that, this church or another, but argumentation is not the real test of any religion. The real testing is to be found in the experience of that religious conviction in terms of what it can produce in our lives.

In the early church there seemed to be a lot of concern over "true belief." Some people were deeply concerned over the question of how they could determine when they were receiving essential Christian teaching and when they were receiving something which was contrary to established Christian faith. People were deeply concerned that they not slip deeply concerned that they not slip unwittingly into any kind of error.

By this we know

Many people today are no less concerned about finding the "right" beliefs, making certain that they are not beguiled into following the "wrong" preacher or teacher. To compound our confusion, there are a great multitude of religious groups who weave a spell of uncertainty and anxious suspicion by their constant references to "heresy" and "unbelief" and the various means whereby suspicious beliefs and practices can be tested.

Yet, what is the one sure test? It is not a matter of argument or proof-texting or even doctrinal standards. Jesus said, "You will know them by their fruits" (Matthew 16:7), and the writer of 1 John puts it into these words: "... he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God" (1 John 4:8). Thus, the real test of any religious idea and practice is not argument, or ecclesiastical rules and regulations... it is LOVE, the kind of love so beautifully illustrated in Jesus Christ. That alone is the "proof" of our ecclesiastical and theological puddings!



NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith
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TO ATTEND AG. PROCESS DAYS...

One of the largest agricultural events in the state this summer will be Ag. Progress Days '76 scheduled to be held August 25 and 26 at the Rock Springs Research Farm in Centre County; this farm is operated by Penn State University and will be the scene of a vast display of farm machinery and other agricultural products. A special Bicentennial Program is being planned for this year. I am mentioning this event at this time so that local folks can include it on their schedule several weeks in advance. There will be displays and exhibits for women in homemaking as well as the agricultural events. Also, special programs for youth are being planned. We urge local folks to take note of this important event and plan to attend one or both days. Details available at our Extension Office.

TO MAKE STRAIGHT ALFALFA SEEDINGS...

We are aware that many forage producers continue to try to get a good stand of alfalfa in winter grain. Also, farmers are trying to establish an alfalfa stand in winter rye in some areas. During the past several years most of the better stands of alfalfa have been obtained in a straight seeding either in early August or early spring (March or April). Most winter grains and especially rye and barley provide too much competition to the small legume seedlings. With the straight alfalfa seeding along with good weed control measures, the chance of a good stand is much better. The band seeding method is one of the very best ways to make the seeding.

TO CHECK

LIGHTNING RODS...

The severe storms of last weekend reminded me of the value of rods on buildings. Several times I wished that we had rods on our home, but we don't, so we had to pray

that we would not be hit with one of those bed-jarring bolts. However, buildings that do have lightning rods are protected to a degree providing the rods are free from obstructions and are properly grounded. Owners are urged to inspect their rod system and remove any foreign material, bird nests, and be sure they are down into moist soil. If they are not in good condition, or not grounded, the building may still be set on fire.

TO PREPARE

FOR CORN CROP...
Proper storage for another big corn crop seems to be in order; it appears that both silage and grain storage facilities will be taxed to the limit this fall. With corn prices advancing weekly, we may have another very valuable crop to harvest and store - or sell. Plans for corn cribs are available from our Extension Office in case more storage is needed for shelled or ear corn. The harvesting of high moisture corn is becoming more popular but good storage is again needed. The protection of the corn crop from the weather and rodents is important and it is not too early to be making plans for the crop. With livestock producers the making of the crop into silage is the best way to preserve the most feed nutrients.

Farm Calendar

Today, July 17

Lancaster County beekeepers hold annual picnic at Elmer Lapp farm, 3 p.m. until dark.

Monday, July 19

Manheim Young Farmers hold monthly meeting on alfalfa management at Southeastern Pennsylvania Research Farm, Landisville. Program begins at 7:30 p.m. Note that this date is a week earlier than was previously planned.

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RURAL ROUTE By Tom Armstrong

