

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Bulls strengthen the milk flow

The upward trend in dairy production has been discussed and looked at from various different angles, but one area which hasn't been given a whole lot of publicity are bull studs.

No dairyman can deny that good breeding is one of the most important factors in achieving good production. That means having good bulls.

While production per cow and herd averages have been going up, so have predicted differences for bulls. In fact, they're up to astonishing levels.

A year and a half ago, for example, it was noted in *Lancaster Farming* that more than 100 bulls had predicted differences of more than 1000 pounds of milk in the most recent Holstein sire summary, put out by USDA last month, and published in *Lancaster Farming* this week, no fewer than 185 bulls have passed that milestone.

More astonishing facts are revealed in the sire summary. To name one: A Brown Swiss sire is rated tops over all breeds.

Unlike the figures which give predicted difference in dollars (income), the milk production differences aren't inflationary and stand as an accurate assessment of

how sires are getting better and better.

With all that many bulls available which offer such potential improvement in milk production, it's no wonder that milk is flowing like it never did before.

No bull, sires strengthen the milk flow.

And it should be pointed out that the improvements aren't just coming in the black-and-white breed. The Ayrshire breed has more than a fifth of all of its bulls on the USDA list with predicted milk differences of 1000 or more pounds. Specifically, that works out to five out of 23.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of all is that a Brown Swiss bull reigns as the super sire over all breeds.

"Nakota Pavanne Evilo" bested even the top Holstein sires with a predicted difference of 2234 pounds of milk, 70 pounds of butterfat and \$203. What's more, he had a 77 per cent repeatability factor to go with that phenomenal performance.

The best record of a Holstein bull, according to this most recent USDA sire summary, stands at 2035 pounds of milk predicted difference

in milk and 57 of fat, with a repeatability percentage of 65. Predicted difference in dollars was pegged at \$177.

Two other Brown Swiss bulls came up with performance data which bested that of all but the highest-ranked Holstein sire. All told, four Brown Swiss sires exceeded \$150 in predicted difference, compared to six for the Holstein breed. Eight Brown Swiss sires had predicted differences for milk above 1000 pounds, compared to 185 for the black-and-whites.

Guernseys, too, are making improvements, with nine bulls eclipsing the 1000 pounds of milk improvement mark. The highest ranking sire of this breed shows a predicted difference of 1219 pounds of milk, 68 pounds of butterfat, \$145, and a repeatability factor of 57 per cent. Repeatability, by the way, has nothing to do with repeat services. Rather, it's an indication of reliability. Simply put, the higher the repeatability percentage, the more proven the bull.

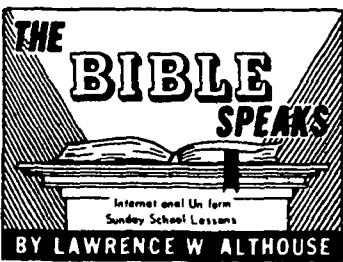
Moving on to the Jersey breed, we find that as many of these "little fellows" have gone above the 1000 pound milk mark as what there were Holstein bulls to accomplish that feat

a decade ago. The Jersey breed boasts 23 bulls who have this distinction, according to the USDA figures. That is almost as many as all other colored breeds combined, and a fifth of the total the Holstein breed had just 18 months ago.

The top Jersey bull listed has a predicted difference of 1518 pounds of milk, 66 pounds of fat, and \$159 -- which is equal in dollar figures to the fifth-rated Holstein sire. The repeatability on this one is 77 per cent.

USDA lists just 12 bulls for the Milking Shorthorn breed, and three of those surpass the 1000 pound mark. In fact, they each pass 1200 pounds, with the top individual's performance statistics standing at 1398 pounds for milk, 59 for butterfat, and 144 for the predicted margin in dollars. The repeatability is calculated at 84 per cent.

With such performance data, and with dairymen making use of it, it's no wonder that we're getting so much milk. No matter which way you strain it, it comes out as a credit to breeders of dairy cattle -- regardless of the color of the hide.



THE IGNORED WARNING

Lesson for November 13, 1977

Background Scripture:

Luke 14:12-14

16:19-31; James 2:1-7

Devotional Reading:

Mark 6:30-44

Mr. Christian Dives rose

unsteadily to his feet. Although he had never been drunk in his life—not even tipsy, as a matter of fact—there were times when he ate so much that his brain seemed numb and his body unresponsive to him. This was one of those times.

Although on the table before him every one of the dishes and platters that covered the large table were empty or nearly empty, the little food they held seemed to nauseate him. He had done it again—stuffed himself to the point of acute discomfort.

Turning from the table he picked up the evening paper and lurched to a soft easy

chair in the corner. Sinking into the chair with a serious of sighs and burps, he thumbed through the newspaper, his eyes skipping past a pathetic picture of an African child and mother in the last stages of starvation. He had long ago programmed himself to ignore that sort of thing. It wasn't any of his concern. Popping a Di-Gel in his mouth, he turned to the sports page.

Send Lazarus

The imaginative story above is a simple updating of the first portion of Jesus' parable of Dives and Lazarus. Today we rarely have beggars sitting at our

porches, but we still have people like the destitute Lazarus around us—sometimes no more than the distance to the television set and the evening news. In other words, we are Dives with more than enough for all our material needs and we are still surrounded by the Lazaruses of our world. If we are going to "get into" this parable of Jesus, we are the ones who need to picture ourselves in Hades' inferno with Dives. And it is in sharing his devilish anguish that we need to look into Paradise and see there in perfect and luxurious comfort and plenty the faces of those who once stared hungrily

and miserable at us from tv screens, newspapers, and posters. With Dives we need to reach the horrifying conclusion that unshared abundance will ultimately be the damnation of us.

If they do not hear

We can appreciate Dives' frantic request to send Lazarus back from the dead to warn our loved ones who, like us, continue to live in the midst of plenty without thought of those who are destitute. It seems logical to conclude that, "if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." But the Lord knows his children: "If

they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if one should rise from the dead." In other words, it is not that we don't know better, but that despite what we know we still choose to ignore the Lazarus on our doorstep. We have sermons, scriptures, books, pictures and films—if we can manage to ignore these (and we do), we will find some way to ignore a Lazarus risen from the dead. Did not Christ rise from the dead and don't we still ignore his warning?



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

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TO GRIND NEW CORN CAUTIOUSLY

Livestock producers who are using the new corn crop in both dairy and beef rations should be alert to the moisture content of the corn and the cob, in many cases. When this mixture is ground with high moisture content, it will heat and mold in 24 to 48 hours, depending upon conditions. This heated corn is toxic to many animals and may cause severe bloating

and abortions in breeding cattle. When this high moisture corn is used, it should be ground daily and then mixed with other grains.

TO PROTECT SMALL PIGS THIS WINTER

Severe cold weather may not affect a finishing hog that weighs 150 pounds or more; however, in the case of small feeder pigs weighing less than 100 pounds, the experiences of

last Winter reveal they do suffer from the cold and will get pneumonia, or not do good under the colder conditions. Hovers should be placed over the pens in the sleeping end so the body heat can be used to keep them warm; boards, plywood, straw, or corn fodder may be used. When the small pigs pile up in the corner of the pen, they need additional warmth. Livestock comfort is needed for best results.

TO CHECK BARN VENTILATION

The Winter feeding season is at hand when many barns will be filled to capacity. Without proper ventilation, the ceilings and walls may drip with condensation; this happens when cold air and hot air come into contact, or when a cold surface is in contact with warm air. Additional insulation is one way to improve this problem. Another practice

is to establish proper ventilation to move out the foul, moisture-laden air. This can be done by the use of exhaust fans and air inlets. The manual control of doors and windows might help the condition, but is far from satisfactory for most barns.

TO TEST FORAGE QUALITY

The Fall is a good time to learn the real feeding value

of both hay and silage crops. This testing service is available through our Penn

State Extension Service and might save hundreds of dollars this Winter in buying less protein feed. When both

the silage and hay are tested, then a suggested grain ration may be requested for best results;

this is very important to dairymen, and we urge more local producers to utilize this service. Many farmers are making excellent hay and silage crops these days, higher in feed nutrients than years ago, and thus need less

protein to give the proper balanced ration. Forage testing doesn't cost money, it saves money.

RURAL ROUTE By Tom Armstrong



Farm Calendar

Today, Nov. 12
Travel and Adventure Program on Spain, sponsored by the Paradise Rotary Club, 7:30 p.m. at Conestoga Valley High School.
Blue Mountain Young Farmers hold square dance and promenade ice cream party in the dining hall of the high school, 7:30 p.m. Music and calls by Elwood Staudt.
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