

# EDITORIAL COMMENTS

By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



## Keep your medicine

Drug residues in meat and milk are a potential powder keg for farmers. Ten of thousands of dollars have been lost in recent weeks in southeastern Pennsylvania alone. The problem is nationwide, however.

A disaster is in the making if farmers aren't careful. If they aren't the federal government's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will impose some harsh penalties on offenders.

The problem is that farmers are either ignoring or unintentionally missing strict precautionary measures when treating their animals for infections or ailments. Drug residues are showing up in the food supply and Uncle Sam's food inspectors won't stand for it.

Every farmer should be seriously concerned. Violations have been found on both dairy and beef farms. If it continues, a dairyman might well be held liable for contaminating a tankerful of milk -- both in market-value and possible court actions. The beef producer won't get paid for the affected carcass and must stand all related costs of testing and disposal.

What's more, if that won't bring the offending farmers in line, FDA could ban the use of penicillin and other drugs in meat and milk animals. No farmer needs to be told about the powerful healing effects of these drugs.

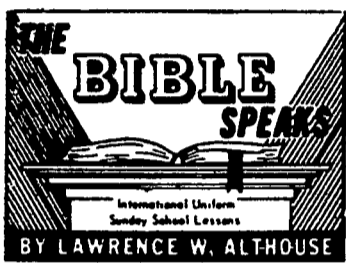
Drugs in milk is now considered to be a major problem. Earlier this year

inspectors in a large Pennsylvania city found penicillin in milk that had already reached the store. All supplies were seized, including what was left in the silo at the dairy. Tankerloads of milk were then dumped in a Cumberland County field. It wasn't the first time that happened.

Knowledgeable people in the cattle business warn that drugs found in meat -- and this most certainly includes culled dairy cows -- will not be tolerated much longer. FDA will insist on testing each carcass, if necessary, and will hold them in storage until tests are completed. Any carcass showing the presence of drug residues will be condemned. The farmer will be held liable for every cent of expense involved and he won't get the check for the animal either.

How critical is the problem? Informed people in the dairy industry say the tests are now available to detect one part per billion. That's the equivalent of one drop in an Olympic-size swimming pool or one person in the entire human population on Earth. Obviously, that splits it pretty fine and it leaves the farmer with no margin of error.

Penicillin -- wonderful as it is to cure infections and speed recovery from many illnesses -- can kill a person who is allergic to it. That's why FDA is pushing so hard to clean up the doctoring procedures on the farm.



### STALKING IVORY

Lesson for March 19, 1978

Background Scripture:

Acts 3:1 through 4:4.

Devotional Reading:

Acts 3:18-26.

Despite the fact that I had

attended Sunday school as a child -- or maybe because of it -- when I reached my early teens I drifted away from the church. As a maturing eighth-grader I was too busy with other pursuits, including the pursuit of a beautiful eighth-grade girl who had recently moved to our junior high. It wasn't long until we were "going steady."

As I walked her home after school each day she would frequently mention the youth group of her church. From what she said, it was the most interesting group of youth I could imagine. Still, I was resistant, but since it

was an extra opportunity to be with her, I consented to go along one Sunday evening.

Something more

From then on I was "hooked." Although the girl and I soon had a parting of the ways, I continued to attend the Sunday night fellowship meetings, as well as the frequent additional activities. Initially, I went because I liked the people in the group. In time, however, I found something even more important: a faith.

It had been an interesting string of circumstances: to be with a girl I had attended in a meeting; because the meeting was fun I joined a

group; because I joined the group I found a faith. I got a great deal more than I was looking for.

Often, that's the way it has been with people's spiritual experiences. They have asked for one thing that seemed important and received considerably more than they asked for. This is what happened that day when Peter and John were going up to the temple for prayer and came upon a crippled man lying at the Beautiful Gate. As was his custom, he asked for alms -- a hand out (after all, what else was there for a man who was lame from birth?). Unlike

many who went up to the temple, these two men stopped and looked at him.

Expecting to receive

Luke tells us that "he fixed his attention upon them, expecting to receive something from them." And he was right, for they would give him something, in fact, more than what he asked for. "I have no silver and gold," said Peter, "but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk" (Acts 3:6). Immediately the man received what had been denied him since birth: he could walk. In fact, he could run and leap -- and he did, praising God!

What happened with that man at the Beautiful Gate is still happening today: we ask for something that seems important, but God responds by giving us something far better. We may come to him with the wrong motives and desires, but if we are receptive, if we expect to receive something, we will and far beyond our expectations.

An old proverb says, "He who goes off hunting ivory usually finds there's an elephant attached." So we may look for happiness and find it only when we recognize that there's a God attached!

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

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### TO BECOME

#### PESTICIDE CERTIFIED

I fear that too many farmers, and other pesticide users, are not going to be able to buy materials this Spring when they want them. The pesticide certification program is in operation, and a certificate with a number is going to be needed to buy many of the materials. Producers should not neglect this certification; otherwise, they may not be able to buy the materials when they want them. It takes several weeks to become certified and we urge folks to get this done before the materials are

needed. The Penn State correspondence course on pesticides is strongly suggested in order to prepare for the certification examination.

### TO TAKE TIME TO BE SAFE

Spring is here and the big rush will be on to get the outside work started. Too much haste can cause all kinds of trouble, including farm and home accidents. Too much speed on farm trucks and tractors have been the cause of many accidents. The permitting of youngsters to ride on tractors and other moving

vehicles is risky and should not be permitted. Protection shields and devices should be kept in place in order to protect the operator. We often think that an accident won't happen to me, because I've always been doing things in a similar manner; however, hazards should be removed when recognized. Also, all safety practices should be stressed to youngsters and employees. The loss of a finger, an arm, a foot, or one's life is not worth too much hurrying.

### TO UTILIZE FARM MANURE

This is the time of the year

when many barns and feedlots will be cleaned; this livestock by-product is a definite fertilizer item and should be used to grow better crops. Manure that has been outside all Winter no doubt has lost much of its fertilizing elements; however, it is still useful as soil organic matter and to keep the soil in good condition. Producers should make every effort to spread the manure on good drying days in order to keep odors to a minimum. Also, it is strongly advised to incorporate the manure into the topsoil as soon as

possible after spreading. With liquid manure systems, oil-injection spreaders will do an excellent job. The big thing is to use the manure for soil improvement; most soils need it.

### TO BE ALERT FOR TERMITES

When warm weather arrives, we can expect activity on the part of both termites and winged ants; these pests will often collect at a sunny window during the Spring months. The first objective should be to identify the insect to be sure it is a termite, and not an ant. The termite will have one elongated body with four

large, equal-sized wings. The ant will have a jointed body with two large and two smaller wings. The worker termites do not appear in the open but are small, white insects about 1/4 inch long. Publications are available on termites at any of our Extension Offices in Pennsylvania. If swarming termites are found, then prompt action should be taken to locate and eliminate them.

## COMMENTS FROM READERS.

### A farmer's observation of markets and surpluses

Editor, Lancaster Farming: Having read your Feb. 25th editorial in the Lancaster Farming I have a

few comments I think farmers should know about.

Your editorial mentioned the farmer's strike and the

observations made by a Midwestern observer and I have got to say that I agree

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## Farm Calendar

**Saturday, March 18**  
Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers annual meeting, Hunt Valley Inn, Cockeysville, Md. 10 a.m.  
Part-time farmers meeting, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

**Sunday, March 19**  
Southeastern Pennsylvania

Vegetable Day, 9:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn, Kulpsville.

**Monday, March 20**  
Farm Credit Banks of Baltimore association meetings, noon to 11 p.m.  
Pa. Ag Safety Council meets for first time at Keller Conference Center, Penn State University, University Park, 10 a.m.  
Elizabethtown Young Farmers volleyball practice at the high school gym, 7 p.m.  
York County Fruit Growers meeting, 10 a.m.  
Lampeter-Strasburg FFA banquet, 6:45 p.m. at the high school.

**Tuesday, March 21**  
Farm Credit Banks of Baltimore association meeting, Hershey Convention Center, 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
New Holland Young

Farmers meeting on swine management, 7:30 p.m. at the high school.

Animal Health Seminar at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Arcadia Road, off Route 72, all day.

Inter-State Milk Producers annual District 8 meeting, 7 p.m. at Ridge Fire Company on Route 23, east of Bucktown.

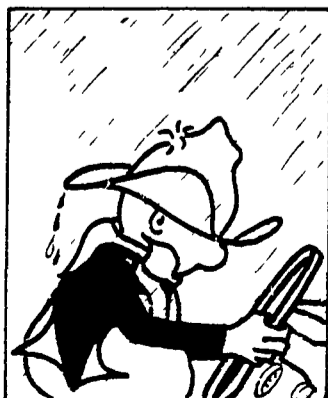
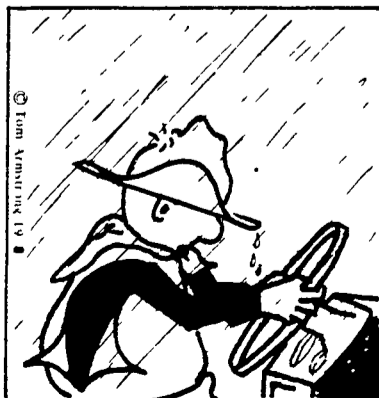
Home Vegetable Gardening meeting, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers meeting on soil compaction and tillage, 7:45 p.m. at the high school.

New developments in swine production and breeding management to be discussed in Room 116, Agricultural Hall,

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## RURAL ROUTE



THAT'S WHAT I HATE ABOUT A HEAVY RAIN THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. YOU NEVER KNOW HOW DEEP THE POT HOLES ARE IN THE LANE.