

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Good luck, Jeffords Bill

A proposed cull cow bill which is aimed at reducing the nation's dairy herd will need a lot of luck to be effective.

The proposal, introduced by and named for Congressman James M. Jeffords of Vermont, suggests payments to dairymen of 15 cent per pound on culled dairy cows. The measure would apply only to the 13th through 25th cow culled in a 100-cow herd during a 6-month period.

The idea is to encourage dairymen to reduce their herds, which, it is hoped, would bring about reduced supplies of milk.

While the dairy industry in most parts of the country can rightfully be concerned about the surplus milk situation, the effectiveness of the Jeffords Bill can be questioned.

Certainly well intended, the Jeffords Bill nonetheless fails to look at all the facts realistically.

To begin with, the fairness of the proposal must be brought up. Dairymen, already receive support

from the government to hold up milk prices, and now they may be on the way to collect more from the government through a cull cow program. That is, they'll collect more if the program works. It may well not work.

Back to the question of fairness, the premium paid to dairymen will hurt the cattleman's market. Even though the cattle associations aren't complaining now, the possibility for depressed markets is real -- at least for a few months during which dairymen haul their tail-enders to the auction.

A subsidy on cull cows of 15 cents per pound is a pretty good incentive to move the loafers out of the barn. On a 1400-pound cow, that's an extra \$210 in the wallet. Assuming a 30 cents per pound price on the open market, and adding 15 cents to that, the dairyman gets 45 cents per pound. He collects \$600 for her. That's a nice chunk of money towards a nice replacement cow sometime in the future.

It's questionable, too, whether slaughter cow prices will stay at their presently good level once the estimated 570,000 cows hit the market when and if the Bill goes into effect. The hamburger market can only take so much, and once it's filled, prices tumble. While the 15-cent premium might still keep things favorable for the dairyman, the lowered open market price will be a reason to cry for the cattleman.

Then there's the question of more bureaucracy in the farming business. Every dairyman who expects to take advantage of the culling incentive will have forms to fill out and accurate records to produce. It's a chore which few farmers like. With a general philosophy of "the less government there is in farming, the better," it's ironic that the Jeffords Bill is receiving support from farm organizations.

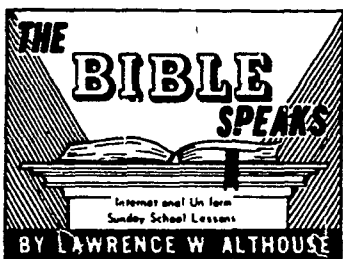
Another factor which may not be receiving close enough attention from the Bill's sponsors and sup-

porters is the fact that production in a herd isn't necessarily reduced just because a few free-loaders get shipped to market. In fact, it's not at all unusual for the balance of the herd to pick up the slack and keep the milk flowing the same as usual.

Granted, the Bill is well intended, and in theory it may save the government up to \$300 million in revenues which would otherwise have to go for the purchase of surplus milk. But it'll need a lot of luck to work the way it's supposed to.

Give the dairyman this kind of a support program is nice for the dairyman.

Looking at such a program with just a little bit of a twist to it, what would happen if dairyman were charged a 15 cents per hundredweight surcharge on grains they use, and then that money would be distributed to the nation's ailing grain producers? Or a surcharge on milk to bombard advertising markets with "Drink More Milk" slogans.



THE ANANIAS COMPLEX

Lesson for April 2, 1978

Background Scripture:

Acts 4:32

through 5:11.

Devotional Reading:

Romans 12:3-13.

I suspect that lots of

preachers take an ill-disguised delight in the story of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). It makes a perfect text for the Every Member Canvas or annual budget sermon.

The story is simple in outline. In a period when many of the disciples owned all things in common to meet the needs of the whole fellowship, a man and wife, Ananias and Sapphira, sold a piece of property and took the proceeds and laid them at the feet of Peter, the foremost apostle of the church. Ananias led Peter to believe that the money he was offering to the church

was the complete revenue from the sale. Actually, it was only a portion.

The lie

To Ananias' shock, however, Simon Peter knew that he was telling a lie and he confronted him with his deception. Terrified to be discovered in his lie, Ananias dropped dead at Peter's feet. Later, his wife also came to Peter and, not knowing what had happened to her husband, repeated the same lie. She likewise died on the spot when accused by Peter.

Actually, the point of the story is not that Ananias and

Sapphira did not give all the proceeds of the sale to the church. Peter made this clear when he said to

Ananias: "While it (the property) remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? (5:4). In other words, the sharing of their worldly goods was completely voluntary. No one had to do it. Ananias and Sapphira made this decision on their own.

Where this couple went wrong, rather, was in trying to "have their cake and eat it too," as the old saying goes. They wanted to keep some of

the profits (their privilege) while at the same time pretending that they were turning over to the church the whole amount.

Tempting the spirit

Actually, our stewardship problem as Christians today is not so much that we don't share enough—although we don't—but that, like Ananias and Sapphira, we pretend that we are giving a great deal more than we are. What we share with others is pitifully small, but the root of our sin—and that's what it is—lies in our protests that we are sharing "all we can." We give the impression that our giving is sacrificial,

when, in fact, it represents a very small part of our income. We continually protest how little we have and at the same time are living in a material prosperity that is unequaled in the world's history. As Peter said to the tragic couple: "You have not lied to men but to God" (5:4).

If we want to continue to spend our money as we are doing, that is our choice. We may share as much or as little as we like. But let us not fall victim to the Ananias Complex and tempt God's Holy Spirit with the pretentious lie that we are sharing all we can.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851



TO CONTROL WILD GARLIC

Dairymen, who pasture their milking herd, have the most to lose if they do not eliminate wild garlic from their pasture fields. This fast-growing wild onion is already growing in pastures and other turf areas. The young plants are much easier to kill with herbicides than mature plants. We suggest that the plants be sprayed very soon with the low-volatile ester form of 2,4-D. This herbicide will do a good job of keeping the young plants from maturing; by spraying early in the spring the legumes in

the pasture area will not be injured. Since the wild garlic plant is very well rooted, it may take several sprays over a period of two or more years to eliminate the weed from the area. Don't wait until the plants are mature to make this spray application.

TO START GRAZING GRADUALLY

With the amount of moisture in the soil in this part of the country, warm weather will bring growth very rapidly on most pasture areas. This will also be true with producers that are planning to graze winter grains such as rye or barley.

The herd or flock should be controlled at first, and not allowed on the area for more than a half hour; bloating and scouring may result if they get too much of the lush forage the first few days. Also, it is best to feed the animals some dry matter such as silage, hay, or straw before turning them to pasture the first few times. Dairymen should keep milking cows from the grazing area at least 4 to 5 hours before the milking period.

TO BE CAREFUL WITH LEFT-OVERS

Unsealed containers of

fertilizers and pesticides are a hazard to the farm family and all livestock. It is quite common to have part of a bag left over of most any material; however, this bag should be out of the reach of children, pets, and all livestock. If there is a chance for any of them to get into it, they often will with tragic results. I suggest that left-over materials be placed in a special room and kept under lock and key. We often learn of animals that get out of their stalls and pens and get into these containers. Careful management of all pesticide materials, as well as empty containers, is very

important. Don't be careless and end up very sorry.

TO KEEP PESTICIDE RECORDS

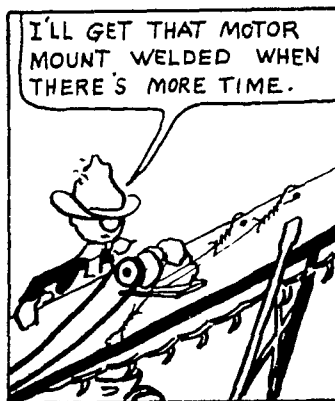
The growing season is at hand and many farmers and gardeners will be using some type of spray material for their crops. An accurate record of the application should be on file; this should include the name of the material, the amount, and the date applied. This might seem unnecessary to most of us. On the other hand, if the crop is checked by FDA officials and too much residue is found, it is very important to have a record

to fall back upon. Some farmers might lose their market and be put out of business, unless they can prove they used the proper materials. The same is true when treating livestock; good records are needed at all times. Don't rely on your memory to prove your practices; it is not good enough.

Rural Route

By Tom Armstrong

Farm Calendar



Today, April 1

Sheep meetings in Lancaster County, 9:30 a.m. at John Kimbark's Manheim R4, and 1:30 p.m. at Graystone Manor Stables, 2302 New Holland Pike, Lancaster. Ben Morgan from Penn State is guest speaker. Southcentral Pennsylvania Pork Producers

Association holds carcass contest - live weigh-in and evaluation - Carlisle Livestock Market, 1:30 p.m. Franklin County 4-H Dairy Council meeting and supper, 7 p.m. at Faust Jr. High School, Chambersburg. Second annual convention of Pennsylvania Freemart (Turn to Page 18)