

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



The Dairylea situation:

Positive attitude deserves praise

Sitting here at my video display terminal (instead of a typewriter) is a happy occasion tonight - despite the late hour. I've just concluded a series of interviews with several Pennsylvania dairymen, discussing with them their thoughts on marketing. Apparently, to my pleasant surprise, a good many farmers are taking the sales of their products very seriously. What impresses me is that none of the dairymen I talked to are taking their market for granted.

That's good news. It's good news because the agricultural community has generally been plagued with a lack of enthusiasm and concern for the product once it's in the bulk tank, crate, or bin. The emphasis has always been (and still is) on production while anything beyond that is generally never fully accepted as a part of the farming business.

Evidently, the tide is turning. Members of Dairylea Cooperative, Inc. stand as proof of that statement. I, for one, rejoice in their convictions and actions. As an observer and editor, it's easy for me to say that. It isn't costing me a penny to write these words and I have nothing at stake in Dairylea or any other cooperative.

Members of Dairylea, however, couldn't just give verbal support to their capitalization plan which is intended to give their cooperative a strong financial footing. They had to give their vote of confidence in the form of cash. There's no denying that it hurt. An easier route may have been to just quit and go elsewhere, but the great majority of them decided to stay with their bargaining and marketing unit - Dairylea.

My hat is off to those dairy farmers

and I wish them and their cooperative the best of luck

In going along with the capitalization plan, the membership is investing in the security of a future milk market. As one dairyman stated. "It's awful nice to know that somebody is going to pick that tankful of milk up every day." He knows he wouldn't have that kind of security with many private handlers. Hundreds of dairymen found that out the hard way last Winter and Spring when their dealers simply shut them off when they had more milk than they needed.

Granted, it needs to be said that no dairy cooperative in the Northeast is without some form of problems at the present time. And it's true that some dairymen could possibly get a better deal by shipping their milk to private handlers. But, as was evident earlier this year, what happens when

you get the notice that you no longer have a market?

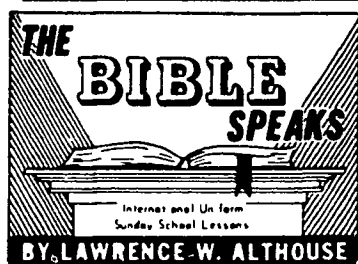
The answer to that question isn't as simple as some would expect or hope.

That's because milk marketing isn't all that simple. Many dairymen learned last Spring and even as recently as yesterday, I'm sure, that they can't just offer their milk anywhere. Somebody has to be willing to take it.

I couldn't resist asking some of the Dairylea members if they had any reservations about supporting the capitalization plan. Yes, some had. Had they considered leaving the cooperative? Again, some had. A few did, in fact.

"I stayed with Dairylea because we could not find another market," said one Union County dairy farmer who has 70 milking cows. He added that

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LONGEST RACE

Lesson for December 3, 1978

Background Scripture:
Genesis 12:1-9
Isaiah 55; Hebrews 1:1,2;
Luke 4:14-21; 15:4-10.
Devotional Reading:
Isaiah 41:8-10.

In his poem, "The Decision," Theodore Roethke says:

"Running from God's the longest race of all."

Actually, despite our frequent complaints about not being able to find God in our own experience, the hardest thing is not to find God but to keep him from finding us. From our limited perspective, we think of our search for God, but, despite the reality of that search, an even greater reality is God's ceaseless quest for us. Job's cry, "O that I knew where I might find him?" is legitimate, but only a distorted perspective on the

total picture in which the seeking God is discovered in his persistent quest for us.

Seek The Lord

Thus, when the Prophet Isaiah says, "Seek the Lord while he may be found, and call upon him while he is near," he is urging the people of Israel, not to go out to find a hiding God, but to turn and be found by the God who is seeking them. It was the seeking God who came to Abraham saying, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you" (Genesis 12:1). In fact, throughout the whole Old and New Testaments one

does not discover anyone who found God because he went searching for him - unless, of course, God was first searching for him.

Even Jesus, although he was long anticipated, was not so much sought for as he was one who went seeking. Thus, in the synagogue in Nazareth, he proclaimed: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18,19).

The Lost Sheep

When Jesus told one of his artful parables to communicate the nature of God, he painted the picture of a good shepherd who, leaving his flock, goes "after the missing one until he finds it" (Luke 15:4). If we find God it is because he seeks us. As C.S. Lewis put it in his spiritual autobiography,

Surprised By Joy:

Amiable agnostics will talk cheerfully about "man's search for God." To me...they might as well have talked about the mouse's search for the cat.

Even in the great parable

of "The Prodigal Son" the repentant son returning home finds his father looking for him even while he is some distance away. The son begins the long journey back, but even before he makes that decision, the father is scanning the horizon. It is in that light that Isaiah counsels: "Let him return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7).

To attempt to run from God is indeed "the longest race of all," until we turn to him to find our Father and be found in him.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851

TO PREPARE VEHICLES FOR WINTER

Cars and trucks should get a good checkup before real cold weather arrives. The recent snow storm, with the first hazardous driving conditions of the fall, found too many cars without snow tires, or without good tread. Tire chains are seldom used today by the average driver; however, good snow tires are needed and will make safer driving for everyone. Batteries should be full and in

good condition; corroded terminals cause too much trouble on many cars. Antifreeze in both the radiator and the windshield washer is needed. The muffler and tailpipe will rust out and allow toxic fumes to enter the car, have them checked in addition to the most recent inspection on older cars. Finally, carry a snow shovel, dry sand, and a tow chain or rope. Extra boots and heavy clothing in the car might also be needed in case of getting stranded on the road.

TO IDENTIFY HERD REPLACEMENTS

Both dairy and livestock producers who are keeping young stock for herd replacements, or for sale, should be sure to identify

each calf soon after birth. If a calf is worth raising, it is worth proper identity in the herd. In the dairy production programs permanent tags and identification is required. Many kinds of ear tags are available at nominal costs. Producers should use these before there is any chance of lost parentage. Tattoos and branding are other forms of permanent identification. Good herd management suggests good calf records and prompt identification.

TO PROTECT FARM MACHINERY

Winter weather is very hard on farm machinery. As we travel throughout the county, we still see too many pieces of machinery sitting

out behind the buildings or still in the fields. This is poor farm management and is costing the owner money. Moisture causes rust and shortens the life of the equipment. Machinery costs are very high and weather protection is one way to reduce the cost of replacing very often. Separate machinery sheds are suggested in order to keep everything from being stored in the main barn. Good care and maintenance is needed to lengthen the life of all farm machinery.

TO INSPECT VENTILATION SYSTEMS

Colder weather may bring more ventilations problems to many dairy and livestock producers. Most buildings

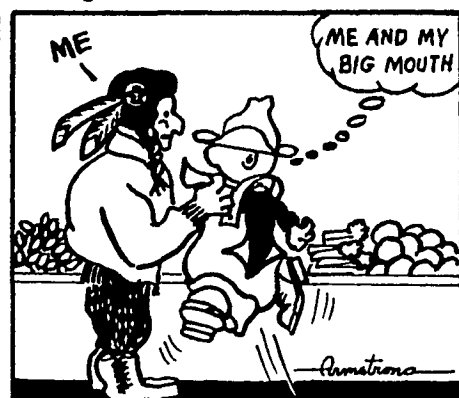
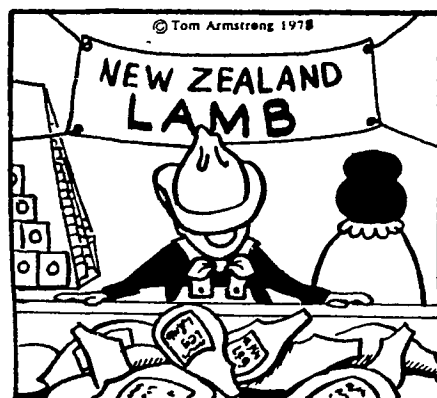
are full of livestock at this time of the year. Signs of condensation of water drops on walls or ceilings means that either more insulation, or more ventilation, is needed. When the warm, moisture-laden air of the barn meets a cold surface, condensation will occur. Extra insulation and more

ventilation should correct this problem. Dripping walls and ceilings gives poor condition for the health of the herd (and the owner); in addition, it will rot the structure and require replacement materials. Operators are urged to check their buildings as colder weather arrives.

Farm Calendar

- Sunday, Dec. 3**
Ontelaunee Grange Hall breakfast, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 4**
York County Holstein board meeting, 8 p.m. at Production Credit Office.
- Tuesday, Dec. 5**
Red Rose DHIA banquet, Good'n Plenty Restaurant, Smoketown, 11:45 a.m.
- Penn's Agri-Women board and committee chairmen meeting, 10 a.m. at the home of Mrs. Ethel Gross, Manchester.
- Solanco Young Farmers meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the high school.
- Farm equipment dealers' banquet, Good'n Plenty Restaurant, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 6**
Monthly meeting of the Hunterdon County, N.J. Board of Agriculture, at the Extension Center, 8 p.m. Speaker: Earl Tindall, A Look at the Corn and Soybean Market."
- Lancaster County Conservation District directors meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center.
- Thursday, Dec. 7**
Adams County annual DHIA awards banquet, Barlow Fire Hall.
- Friday, Dec. 8**
Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association, Ladies Night, 7 p.m. at the Treadway Resort Inn.
- Saturday, Dec. 9**
National Young Farmers Educational Institute Trip, Kansas City, Mo. Departure from Harrisburg at 8:15 a.m. Return Dec. 13, 9:33 p.m.

RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong