

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



# Lancaster Farming says...

## The case against casein

It should be enough of a worry for dairymen that October was the first month in eight that the basic price paid for milk at cheese and butter plants dropped.

October also was the first time this year when butter production was ahead of the same month last year. All the while, cheese production continues to boom along.

If these facts alone weren't enough to assure pressure on dairy prices as we gear up for 1980, there is another major drag on the dairy market: casein.

Casein is a replacement for non-fat dry milk in food products.

Dairy and food processors want casein available to use as a food ingredient in order to keep production costs down.

Farmers look at the rising imports of casein as replacing about 292 million pounds of milk which could have been produced and paid for on American farms.

Despite propaganda to the contrary, the consumer is no big winner whether casein stays or goes.

If the processors can keep imports of casein at their present levels, the

prices of things like toppings, cake mixes, processed meat and cereals won't rise as fast. So the homemaker reaps a short-term profit at the supermarket.

But USDA statistics show displacement of U.S. non-fat dry milk, at 292 million pounds, compares quite closely to CCC non-fat dry milk purchases of 285 million pounds.

So, the homemaker had to foot a tax bill of \$207 million to allow casein to come into the country.

Casein didn't start out as such a bad thing for American farmers. Until recently it was used as a glue or in plastics.

But with the rising cost of non-fat dry milk, much of the casein imported came into direct competition with our domestic dairy output.

Casein is a nutritious ingredient, chemically derived from milk. But, as Penn State Food Scientist Sid Barnard points out, it can not be made economically from U.S. milk. So, it is imported, mostly from Australia and New Zealand.

Today, more than 70 percent of the casein coming into the United States

competes in the marketplace with milk, being used in human food or animal feed.

In addition to the direct competition, Douglas J. Caruso of Farmers Union points out that casein imports encourage the growth of imitation dairy products. Those fakes already are having an economic impact on dairy markets.

The solution, supported by most farmer groups and opposed by most food processors, would be to limit imports of casein.

The National Grange, during its recent meeting in Lancaster, urged that "casein be classified as a dairy product and subject to import quotas."

Clear on the other side of the political spectrum, the National Farmers Union said "there is no longer any reason for imported casein to be outside quota restrictions placed on other dairy imports."

Both groups clearly have the farmer's best interests in heart.

In the first six months of 1979 over 75 million more pounds of casein were imported into this country.

The cost to the American taxpayer

is too high to allow continuing decline of our national balance of trade by making this payment overseas while we shell out over \$200 million a year in domestic CCC contributions, too.

The loss to the American dairy farmer in income, while horrible, is only the tip of the iceberg.

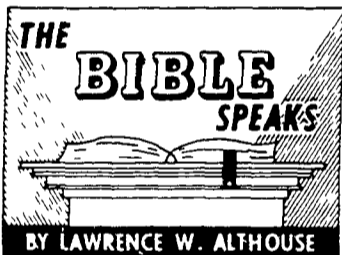
A market lost is doubly difficult to regain. Food processors accustomed to using casein are not going to be quick to return to domestic non-fat milk in their recipes. So farmers will continue to lose sales.

Casein is manufactured from milk. It is used as a dairy product. It has direct impact on the American milk market. It affects the incomes of U.S. dairymen.

Exemption of casein from dairy import quotas must be regarded as a mere quirk, a legal technicality.

The Federal Trade Commission needs to move quickly under Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act.

Casein imports must be restricted just like the imports of cheese and any other dairy product. Casein must be subject to import quotas.



### WELL-PLACED FUNERAL

Lesson for December 16, 1979

**Background Scripture:**  
Colossians 2:16 through 4:18.  
**Devotional Reading:**  
Colossians 3:12-17.  
I asked a friend about

some trouble I heard he was having in his family-owned business. "Oh," he replied, "it's nothing a few well-placed funerals wouldn't solve!"

I easily understood what he meant, for I had already come to understand that when a pastor feels he is having trouble with his church, it is really that he is having trouble with some people in his church. I once called on a parishioner who had not been to church since I had come as its pastor. I tried to impress upon him what a fine church it was. "Oh," he replied, "there's nothing wrong with the

church, it's the people in it I can't stand!"

#### If You Have Been Raised...

Sometimes our little worlds will change only if some of the people in them either change or die. A few "well-placed funerals" can make a big difference. Yet, before we start making our little list of people who would likely fit into that category, we need to realize that probably the best-placed funeral of all would be our own!

Not actually, of course, but figuratively. I mean the

same kind of symbolic death Paul is speaking of in Colossians 3 when he says, "Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: immortality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming" (3:5,6). When someone becomes a follower of Christ, the "old person" should be put to death in a manner of speaking, so that the follower can be a "new person in Christ."

Actually, that is one of the hallmarks of the disciple of Jesus Christ. He or she becomes a new person and

that new personhood is manifest in a new style of life. Noting that many of the Colossians were still living pretty much as they had always lived, Paul was led to ask: "If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the universe, why do you live as though you still belonged to the world? Why do you still submit to regulations. 'Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch'?" (2:20,21). The Colossians were still trying to live by the rules of Judaism.

#### Put To Death...

If we have "died" in Christ "to the elemental spirits,"

we also are figuratively "raised" with him to newness of life. And "If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is." (3:1). There must be a difference in our living that reflects our relationship with Christ. "Put on then...compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and forgiving each other...And above all these put on love. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" (3:12-15).

If you want to live in a new world, set your mind on a well-placed funeral: your own!



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent  
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**TO MANAGE DAIRY CALVES**  
The raising of replacement heifers in the dairy herd is a very important practice. This effort

has been very badly neglected on too many dairy farms. The keeping of young calves in the feed alley is not the best place for them. Heifer calves are very valuable today either to go back into the milking herd, or to be sold to other dairymen. In many of our local herds the heifer calves are raised and represent the

future herd. These small calves do not need "living room" conditions, but should have a clean, dry place that is draft-free; dampness and drafts will result in many kinds of problems. Many good dairymen have established special quarters for the small calves where they can develop into growthy and more valuable

replacements. Don't neglect them; they are the future of your dairy farm operation.

#### TO RECOGNIZE FERTILIZER VALUES IN MANURE

After reading Page 3 of the 1980 Agronomy Guide, we should realize the great fertilizer value in our livestock and poultry manures. Due to the in-

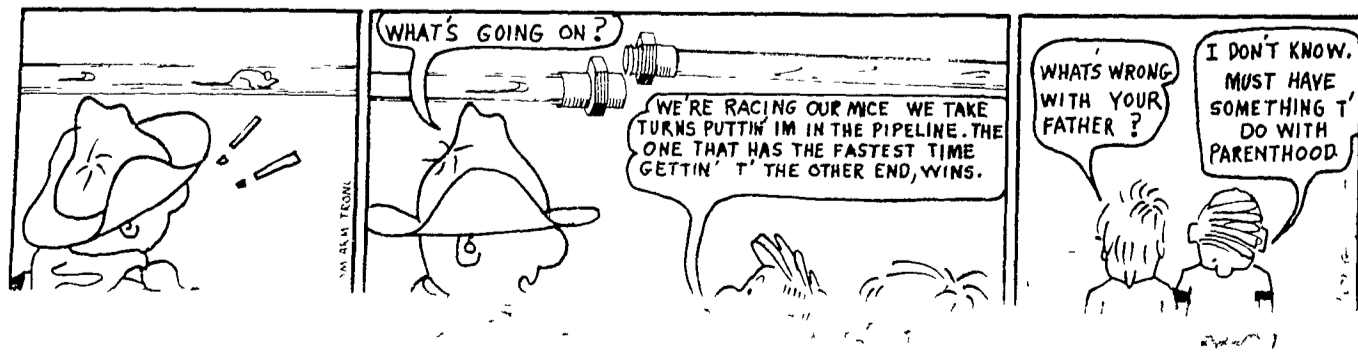
creasing cost of most fertilizers in the coming year, producers should make every effort to use and preserve these manure fertilizer elements. On the basis of the fertilizer content at current fertilizer prices cattle manure has \$3.00 worth of fertilizer elements per ton, swine manure contains about \$5.00 worth, and poultry manure contains approximately \$22.00 worth

of fertilizer elements. This will vary according to moisture and bedding content. In addition, all type of manure add organic matter to the soil which is badly needed on most farms. For best results manure should be either incorporated into the topsoil, or stored in a water-tight pit until it can be mixed with the soil.

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### RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



## Farm Calendar

**Monday, December 17**  
Seedsmens Association meeting at Lancaster Treadway, 10 a.m.  
Berks County ASC Convention at the Ag Center, 10 a.m.

room of the Farm and Home Center, 7.30 p.m.  
Governor Thornburgh's "Town Meeting" at 6:45 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center.  
EAYFA members and family Christmas party