

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

Eliminate the need for milk security fund

Through late fall and winter the big question on many dairymen's minds has been which milk security fund proposal to support.

Perhaps a better question could be put: why support a milk security fund at all?

Various factions argued over a penny or two cents per cwt deductions. They asked whether the handler, or the farmer, or a co-op should pay.

The controversy would be eliminated if its cause could be eliminated — the cause being farmers, in effect, lend handlers milk for up to 55 days and need some protection.

But if all dealers had to pay for the milk promptly the farmer's risk would be cut considerably. No longer would a dairy have use of a farmer's milk for as long as 55 days.

This amounts to an interest-free operating loan to the handler. On the other hand, the farmer probably took an operating loan to produce the milk in the first place. So the farmer pays double.

Any milk handler in a sound financial position should have no problem going to a commercial in-

stitution and obtaining operating capital. These same handlers would have no trouble obtaining the required line of credit to secure milk they purchase.

The farmer certainly has no business lending money to any handler who is not in a solid enough position to obtain commercial loans. If a bank can't take the risk, can the farmer afford to?

What is proposed is a requirement that any milk handler, proprietary or cooperative, be required to make 100 percent payment for all milk shipped within 10 days of receipt. Exceptions would be made only upon written approval by the dairy farmer.

Prompt payment for all milk would eliminate a host of problems.

It would mean an end to questions of who builds a security fund and how much they would pay.

It would do away with the additional expense and bureaucracy needed to administrate a \$4 million fund.

It would make no distinction between proprietary and co-op handlers since nobody would be paying to a security fund

It would benefit all farmers no matter where they ship since each would be paid right away for his milk.

The proposal could become effective within 180 days of passage to give the handler time to adjust.

Since milk prices are not set every week, payment would be made at the most recent price and corrected monthly.

Senator Patrick Stapleton's agriculture committee has checked the idea with the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board. Such a proposal is legal, PMMB said, since it would not weaken the federal market order system.

Most major farm organizations, while they have a security fund proposal in their policy, acknowledge their purpose is to protect the dairyman.

If the time the processor has use of the milk can be reduced, the farmer's exposure to risk is reduced.

"Changing the rules is difficult," one farm leader said.

But Stapleton's office sees no major obstacles with such legislation that wouldn't be part of any other lawmaking effort.

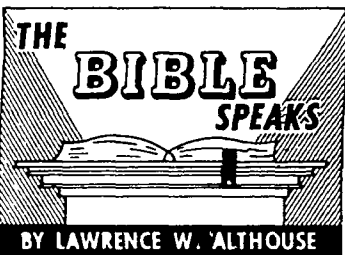
In fact, the Senator and his staff are meeting this coming week with representatives of Pennsylvania's six major dairy cooperatives to outline a proposal to require 100 percent payment within 10 days

The Milk Dealers Association also is tossing the prompt payment idea around. While it will cost them free operating capital, it will save them the security assessment—which, in the case of Hershey Foods, would be a third of a million dollars per year.

The proposal would treat both proprietary and co-op handlers evenly. In fact, co-ops have had more difficulties recently than proprietary handlers.

Best of all, such a proposal would cut farmer risk by assuring prompt payment, eliminate cases where a handler runs out 55 days' milk before closing doors or making an assessment, slash bureaucracy, speed farmers' cash flow, and would end the dairyman's role as lender.

Its beauty is its simplicity. It treats the problem rather than adding another symptom.



ANDREW AND PHILIP

Lesson for January 20, 1980

Background Scriptures:

John 1:35-51; 6:1-14;
12:20-26.

Devotional Reading:

Philippians 2:3-11.

A few days ago I helped to conduct the memorial service for Dr. Paul Price, the man who was both my inspiration and sponsor in the Christian ministry. As a seminary student, I was his assistant in a church at Mohnton, Pa. Later, after he retired as a denominational executive, he became my assistant. He gave me my first opportunity to preach and participated in my ordination.

As I prepared his eulogy it occurred to me that what I remembered best about Paul was, not so much his words, but the example that he set before me. His eloquence was articulated in

what he was and did. His was the kind of friendly and enthusiastic life that invited people to meet his Master.

"Come and See!"

We know very little concerning either Andrew or Philip, except that they were disciples of Jesus. Andrew was a brother of Simon Peter and hailed from Bethsaida on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. We know even less of Philip, apart from the information that he came from the same town. But what the gospels do tell us about these two men indicates that they were the kind of men whose talent consisted in bringing people

to meet Jesus. None of the sermons or teachings are recorded for us, but we catch glimpses of their quiet, yet effective discipleship for Christ.

Andrew was one of the first men to respond to Jesus' invitation to discipleship. And it was he who took his brother, Simon Peter, to the Master, saying "We have found the Messiah" (1:41).

The next day, Philip also responded to Christ's challenge and became his follower. Like Andrew, he could not keep the good news to himself, but went and found Nathaniel, saying: "We have found him of

whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (1:45). When dubious Nathaniel replies, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip invites Nathaniel to meet Jesus himself: "Come and see" (1:46).

Sir, There's A Lad...

Later, on an occasion when Jesus has been preaching by the shores of Galilee and a great throng has gathered and listened well beyond the dinner hour, it is Andrew who brings a young man to Jesus, saying, "There is a lad here who has

five barley loaves and two fish" (6:9). In still another incident, some Greeks come looking for the Galilean at the feast and they find Philip, saying: "Sir, we wish to see Jesus?" Instead of preaching to them, Philip goes immediately and finds Andrew and both together take the Galilean Greeks to Jesus.

That's about all the gospel tells us of Philip and Andrew, but it is enough: they were men who, like my friend and mentor, Paul Price, took others to meet the Master. Their simple, but effective discipleship for Christ is within the reach of everyone of us.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
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TO ENCOURAGE WATER INTAKE

All kinds of livestock and poultry need liberal amounts of water in order to give

maximum production. This is not always provided during the winter months.

Animals that consume large amounts of water are usually more efficient and will produce more milk or more weight gains.

In cold weather water that is warmed will usually be more acceptable to livestock.

Adequate amounts of salt and minerals will also encourage good water consumption.

Water is one of the most important items in any rations, and in most cases is one of the cheapest items in the overall rations. Don't skimp on the amount of water provided for all kinds of livestock.

TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL HEAT

This is the time of the year when many pigs and lambs are being born into cold quarters.

If the new-born animal gets chilled that first hour, it will be in trouble. Many digestive and respiratory problems can develop.

Producers are urged to

provide heat lamps, or some other source of heat, for these animals the first few days.

Modern farrowing barns already have supplemental heat units that provide the proper temperature to get little pigs well started. However, many sheep barns are too cold for little lambs.

The placing of a heat lamp over the small pen in which the ewe and lamb should be

kept for the first few days will get the job done.

Be careful that the heat lamp is well attached and out of the reach of the ewe.

TO EVALUATE THE BEEF REFERENDUM

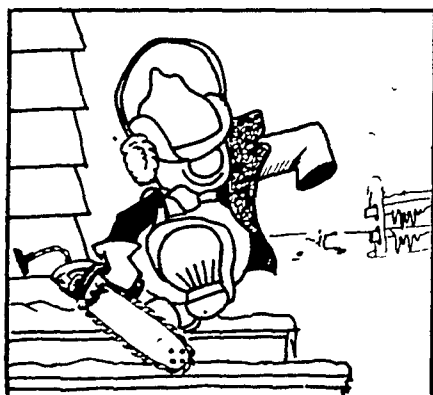
Another attempt is to be made in order to get a beef assessment program underway.

Producers of any type of

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RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



Farm Calendar

Today, January 19
Farmers' Week in N.J. through the 26th.

Monday, January 21
Pa. Farmers Union annual meeting, Penn Harris Hotel, Camp Hill, continues to the 22nd.

Tuesday, January 22
"Energize Your Decor", 9:30 a.m., Extension Cen-

ter Sewing Clinic, Hunterdon Co. Extension Center.
4-H Tractor Maintenance Club meets at 7 p.m. at Messick's Equipment, Inc., Route 283 exit at Rheems, (Western Lancaster Co.)

Lancaster Cattle Feeder's Day, Farm and Home (Turn to Page A18)