

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

Beef referendum needs a close look

Contrary to popular belief, Beef referendum is not McDonald's latest hamburger dish.

It's a checkoff program to raise money for promotion of beef research and marketing efforts.

Anyone, even a child, who has owned just one beef animal in the past year is eligible to vote for or against the program. This would include dairy animals shipped off as cutters and canners.

Farmers can register to vote this coming week at their local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office ASCS will accept registrations through February 6.

Registration requests can be made by phone. ASCS will then mail the appropriate form

The vote will be held February 19 through 22

A similar program proposal was defeated two years ago. But the rules have been changed since then.

Instead of a two-thirds vote, only a simple majority will be sufficient to institute the program.

Dairymen will help to pay for the beef referendum programs, but only

on the value of culled cows when sold for slaughter

Producers can get a refund of the two cents per hundred dollar checkoff fee by requesting one in writing and presenting a receipt.

3 out of 3 isn't bad

Lest anyone fear agriculture is on the wane in Pennsylvania, we're happy to point out the national farm leaders haven't gotten the word yet.

Quite to the contrary, the top men in each of the major farmer organizations — American Farm Bureau Federation, National Grange, and National Farmers Union — all were in Pennsylvania this week

Newest member of the select trio is AFBF's Robert Delano, in office just two weeks.

National Grange Master Edward Andersen, a bit more experienced with two months on the job, made his first return appearance to the Keystone State since taking office in Lancaster during November.

We bring you exclusive interviews this week with both men.

Tony Dechant, President of

Last time around the checkoff was a ho-hum affair. This time the sides are clearly drawn. On one hand, it's peaches and cream, on the other, it's a major disaster.

The American Angus Association

National Farmers Union, brought 14 year's of experience with him to Pennsylvania this week. But his outlook on farming is toward the future and not the past

Dechant, too, is profiled in this week's issue

All three men were supportive of Eastern agriculture. from Andersen, who pointed out that the leadership in saving America's farm land comes from this area, to Dechant, who continues his battle for higher dairy and grain parity

It takes some doing to get a major farm leader to a meeting. It's really something when all three show up for meetings the same week in the same area

We appreciate their interest in and endorsement of Pennsylvania agriculture

says almost all informed cattlemen support the Beef referendum. But the Texas and Tennessee Farm Bureaus are against it

Chain stores or banks which own cattle have just as much say in the voting as individual farmers

The members of the Beef referendum board will be appointed, not elected. But it will be made up of all cattle producers

It will be unable, by law, to fight government programs hassling cattlemen. It could solidify farmers' markets for beef.

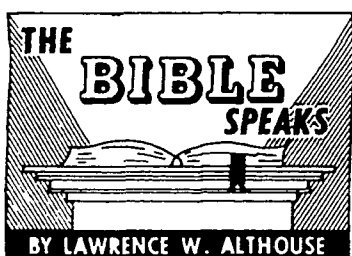
But the worst aspect of the program is the general lack of interest, pro or con, by farmers

A relative handful of people in all likelihood will dictate whether or not the program passes

As in governmental elections, those who don't vote have no right to complain about the way things are run.

Register this week to vote. Read our many articles presenting both sides of the question. And vote in February

You owe it to yourself.



SIMON PETER

Lesson for January 27, 1980

Background Scripture: John 13:36-38; 18:15-18, 25-27; 21:15-22.

Devotional Reading: Matthew 16:13-20.

We all know a Simon Peter or two; enthusiastic, take-charge, impulsive, foot-in-mouth, and frequently talking a better game than playing it. The New Testament allows us to catalogue both his virtues and his sins. The man who first confesses Jesus to be the Christ, he is also the man who fails him most in his greatest hour of need. Clearly the leader of the early church, Peter must nevertheless be taught by a newcomer named Paul that his Christianity is too narrow, too limited.

I Will Lay Down My Life

Perhaps that is why we can identify so easily with him. We can see in him the same heights and depths that we find in our own lives, the same successes and failures, the same elation and shame. We have no difficulty in hearing ourselves say with him, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16) and "I will lay down my life for you" (John 13:37). The words would probably come as easily for us as they did him.

We can perhaps imagine ourselves with Peter receiving that highest of

commendations from the Lord: "Blessed are you Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven... and on this rock I will build my church... I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven..." (Matthew 16:17-19). No other disciple was so highly praised as Peter.

Before The Cock Crows

Nor so soundly rebuked: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men" (Matthew

16:23). Like many of us, Peter often had that tendency to go too far, to operate without his brain properly engaged. He always meant well, but he was often as much trouble for Jesus as he was of help to him. And we can identify with that, too!

Yet, in Peter's abject failures, there is a saving message for us. For we can take hope in knowing that even a failure like Peter could be both forgiven and redeemed. Denying Christ three times in one night would utterly ruin any minister's career today, but

Peter survived that tragic experience at Caiphas' house and went on to become the chief of Christ's apostles.

The brilliance of Peter's character was deeply flawed with weakness, but, no matter how towering that weakness may have seemed to Peter and his fellows, Christ demonstrated that the love and power of God to forgive and redeem are infinitely greater. God is a greater forgiver than I am a sinner. He is more powerful than all my weaknesses. His divinity can overpower my humanity.

And yours!



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
Phone 394-6851

To Use Fertilizer on Forage Crops

Many agronomists feel that too many farmers do not use enough fertilizer on their grass and hay crops. In

general terms we can expect about \$3 in return for every dollar spent for fertilizer on the average farm crop. On many forage crop acres this return can be greater when properly fertilized. Just because the land is covered with grass or a grass-legume mixture, we should not overlook the value of liberal fertilization. The complete soil test is the place to start

and meet the recommended needs. Forage crops can be produced on all types of land and are usually some of the most efficient feeds that can be fed to livestock. Proper fertilization will make greater utilization of forage lands.

To Review Cattle Marketing Practices

The day of the prime-finished animals is all but

history; however, we still have too many feeders that continue to feed their cattle until they are too fat and too heavy. At our recent Cattle Feeders Day, Dr. Lester Burdette from Penn State, told our local feeders that unless they stop feeding cattle into the Yield 4 and 5 grades, they will not stay in business very long. This is not a new suggestion to local

cattle producers. The trend has been in this direction for several years. Currently, over-finished heavy cattle are bringing from 5 to 8 cents per pound less than choice-grade handy-weight cattle. Why put on the extra weight at higher costs and then have to take less per pound at the market place???

To Plan Dairy Breeding Program

A recent report from one of our Penn State Dairy

Specialists, Larry Specht, relates to the best age to breed dairy heifers. According to the DHIA records of over 56,000 heifers the average age of the first calving was 27.7 months. The range was from 18 months to 35 months of age. There was no increase in production by allowing heifers to reach 35 months before calving. Those calving from 18 to 24 months of age produced less.

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RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



Farm Calendar

Today, January 26
Montgomery Co Annual 4-H Beef Supper, North Montco Vo-Tech School, Lansdale

Monday, January 28
Hunterdon Co Horse & Pony Assoc meeting, 8 p.m., Extension Center
Red Lion Young Farmers

meeting, 8 p.m. at the vo-ag classroom; Vinton Crowl will speak on general tractor maintenance.

Tuesday, January 29
Dover Young Farmers meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the vo-ag classroom, Wilham

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