

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



# Lancaster Farming says...

## Independent dairymen need a voice

The independent dairymen in Pennsylvania need a single, united voice which speaks for them and only for them.

Three separate and recent issues underline the need for independent dairymen to have a formal channel to speak their piece.

The first is the drafting of SB 1287, the Milk Security Fund legislation. The second is the inability of Northeastern independent dairy farmers to speak with one voice when state highway regulations made it illegal for 80,000 pound tankers to roll the highways. The third is the rough handling being given independents by Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative.

There are several sides to each of the three questions and it is not our purpose here to pass on the merits of all of them. But it seems one thing has been left out of the decision-

making process: the opinion of the independent dairy farmer.

The Milk Security Fund, heartily endorsed by this paper, was drawn up almost entirely by representatives of dairy cooperatives. The co-ops wrote in a section which allows them to escape the provisions of the Fund, leaving independents to live with the law. This is not to demean co-ops they did what was best for their members.

The only serious challenge to co-op ideas came from the Pennsylvania Association of Milk Dealers. While PAMD waged an honorable fight, it must be admitted it was working for the dealers' interests and not the producers' interests.

The independent shippers, who deal one-on-one with the handlers, had little to no input on the bill. They are lucky it turned out as well as it did.

In the case of the overweight milk tankers, there was no single organization to go knocking on doors in the state legislature and tell congressmen relief was needed.

That such relief came was largely due to a strong union-backed trucking lobby and the work of general farm organizations.

But it hardly seems proper that a general group like the Grange Farmers' Association, or Farmers Union, composed of many factions, could be called on regularly to formulate good policy for a specific group. Nor could they support a small percentage of members who may be in conflict with another group within the membership.

The case in point here is the recent decision by Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative to require Farmland Dairies' independent shippers to join the Co-op.

There seems to be no question that Eastern's opportunistic move is legal. And Eastern is doing what is best for Eastern. But a lot of folks don't feel it's right to force farmers to join a Co-op when those farmers repeatedly turned down the opportunity to do so. In fact, many of the shippers earlier left Eastern to seek a better market.

Again, the independent has self-seeking outsiders deciding his fate. There is no central organization, no rallying point, no one-for-all group to help the independent out of the bind.

General farmer organizations remain silent in fear of internal strife or all-out civil war.

As milk processors and dairy co-ops grow in size, and markets shrink, the independents in this state would be well advised to consider banding together. Such ties may, in the long run, assure their independence.

**THE BIBLE SPEAKS**

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

**DOESN'T GOD CARE?**

Lesson for June 22, 1980

The Book of Habakkuk opens with some nasty questions which the prophet puts to God: "Oh Lord, how long shall I cry for help and thou wilt not hear? Or cry to thee, 'Violence!' and thou wilt not save? Why dost thou make me see wrongs and look upon trouble? (1:1-13). And just in case God doesn't know what he is talking about, the prophet goes on to spell out his complaint: "Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is slack and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous, so justice goes forth perverted"

(1:4,5).

There's more to his complaint, but that should be enough to make it clear that he was the kind of man who didn't hesitate to make his feelings known to God and challenge him with legitimate complaints. In short, he was saying to God, "Don't you care, God? Maybe you do, but it doesn't look that way to me!"

**The Lord Answered**

Pretty sharp words for a mere mortal to fling at his God! How dare he question the justice of Almighty God? Yet Habakkuk knew that he dared not fail to speak to

the Lord concerning what was in his heart and mind. To try to keep these indignant feelings to himself, he knew, was futile, for God already saw into his prophet. It was not safe to try to hide his thoughts from God, for the Lord despised deceit.

Furthermore, because Habakkuk dared to ask these questions and make his complaints known, God came to him with a message that was intended not only for him but for all the people. First of all, God tells his prophet, make sure the people can understand the message you deliver for me: "Write the vision; make it

plain upon tablets, so he may run who reads it" (2:2). This was not a message for a nation of joggers, but of people in too great a hurry to hear or heed normal communication.

**If It Seems Slow...**

The message was relatively simple: "For still the vision awaits its time; it hastens to the end — it will not lie. If it seem slow, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay" (2:3,4). It may seem that God doesn't care about the plight of his people, about the rampant evil that seems to control the world, but he does and he

will settle it as he has promised...in his own time! So be patient, for "the righteous shall live by his faith" (2:4).

I think we can identify well with Habakkuk for when we see how things are going in our own world, when evil seems triumphant and good humiliated, we too are tempted to ask, "Don't you care, God?" And the answer to our just complaint is still as it was then:

Still the vision awaits its time; it hastens to the end — It will not lie.

If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come!



## NOW IS THE TIME

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

several thousand out in Lancaster County.

I'm also concerned that many farmers who have them are not using them. Answers to numerous phone calls asking about crop practices can be found in the Agronomy Guide. I suggest that each farmer index the crops that he is growing with tabs so the information can be found more readily. One of these rainy days become more familiar with the contents of this Guide. It should be very useful and contains dependable and researched information.

**TO CONTROL FLIES**

Weather conditions have

avored the breeding of too many flies. Excess moisture along with livestock and vegetative waste will make it possible for heavy fly reproduction. The first step is to clean up the premises and establish good sanitation practices. If there aren't any places for the flies to lay eggs, then the population will decrease.

Barns and box-stalls should be cleaned out frequently. Storage piles should be drenched or sprayed weekly with insecticides such as Diazinon or Sevin. Clean premises that dry out quickly after a rain will not foster high fly

production. Don't be blamed by your non-farm neighbors as the main source of flies in the community.

**TO CONTROL POND ALGAE**

One of the major management problems with many farm ponds is the control of weeds and algae. This is not a new item and is difficult to control. In the first place, algae growth is stimulated by the water being too clear, or too shallow. With both of these cases the sunlight is able to reach the bottom of the pond and start vegetative growth. If the water can be kept cloudy, or if it is deep enough

(at least 18 to 24 inches) at all places, there should be less trouble.

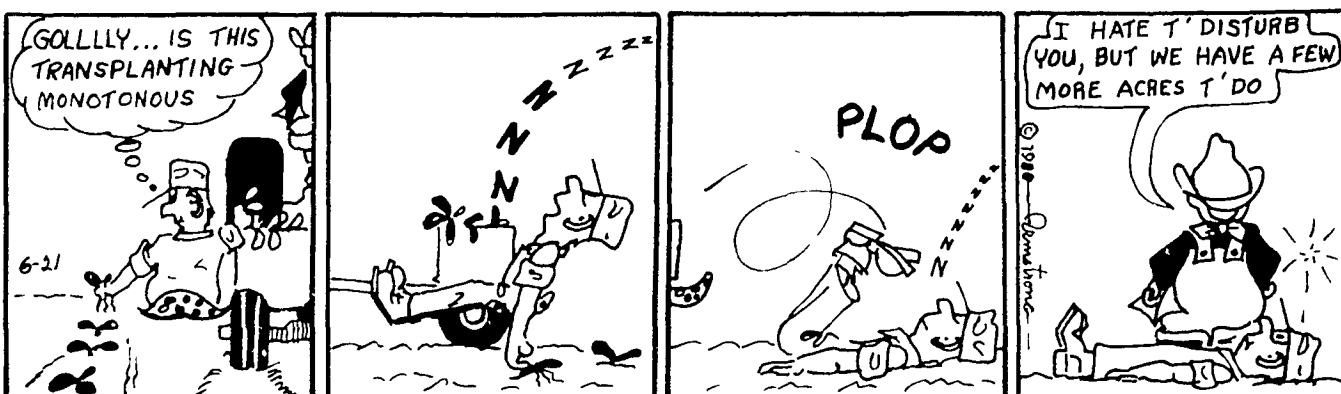
If algae or weeds are a problem, the first step is to secure a permit from the Pennsylvania Fish Commission to treat the pond with chemicals. This is very important before any chemicals are added. Applications for this permit are available from any Extension Office or from the Fish Patrolmen in each county. If the pond is to function in the many different ways it is intended, the algae and weeds should be controlled.

**TO ELIMINATE COLORADO POTATO BEETLE**

Many potato growers have learned that the Colorado

Potato Beetles are thriving on the usual insecticides. This was experienced last year and is again true this summer. It seems they have developed a resistance to Sevin, Malathion, etc. Last year materials such as Ambush were released for their control. And now, we learn that a material named Pydrin has been approved for their control. Sources may be limited for this new material but an effort should be made to obtain it for any sized acreage. These beetles can defoliate a potato plant quickly, resulting in a weak plant and poor tuber development. Directions on the label should be followed accurately. We hope this will be of some help to potato growers.

### RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong

### Farm Calendar

**Saturday, June 21**  
Delta Farm Festival; 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Route 851, Delta.  
Lancaster County Dairy Princess Pageant, Farm and Home Center, 6:30 p.m.  
Somerset Pomona Grange meeting; Wills Grange; 10 a.m.

Farm Safety Seminar; Messick Farm Equipment; Rheems Exit Route 283; 1 p.m.  
Berks County Dairy Princess Pageant; Berkshire Sheraton; 7 p.m.  
Charolais Field Day and Heifer Sale, Clear (Turn to Page A33)