

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



Lancaster Farming says...

Help those who help themselves

It's not fair that Lehigh Valley Farmers Co-op should be penalized for their progressive, self-sufficient approach to milk marketing

But that is just what the result will be if the current Pennsylvania Milk Marketing program proposal is implemented the way it is written

Lehigh Valley will suffer because it is doing for itself what the other dairy co-ops are asking the state government to help them do

Lehigh farmers want to promote their own milk, through their own checkoff program, and expect to reap the benefits, or endure the losses, of the checkoff. They've put \$700,000 of their own money into the program since October 1979

The other co-ops also want to have a milk promotion program, but they feel it should be a general promotion of milk and milk products and should

mention no brand names. A one percent checkoff rate is proposed

The goal of both groups is the same: increased milk consumption. But Lehigh Valley farmers, representing a sizable number of state dairymen, presently must oppose the state-wide promotion proposal to save their own program

Lehigh finds itself in the same boat so many farmers have found themselves in. Lehigh came up with a good idea, took steps to implement the idea, and finds itself faced with regulations supposed to aid the project but which, in fact, hinder it

If the name of the game is milk promotion — and it is — then Lehigh's plan should be encouraged by any group or law seeking to boost dairy consumption

It would not seem unreasonable to expect the dairy community to add a

paragraph or two to the current milk promotion referendum proposal which takes into consideration all of the funds used to promote milk in Pennsylvania

Such language also would benefit other farmers in Order 4 who already kick in one percent of their milk check to federal promotion funds

There are a few ways a refund program could work to even out dairymen's contributions

One would be to have Lehigh Valley farmers assessed a milk promotion fee equal to the amount of milk produced by all members of the Cooperative. Then the total dollars spent by Lehigh on its own promotion program could be deducted from the assessment imposed by the state program

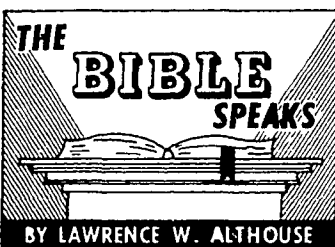
In short, this program would allow Lehigh Valley farmers, or any other

dairy producers, a credit for the money used for milk promotion in their own programs

With some reason, Lehigh questions the value of generic, or non-brand, advertising. The Lehigh farmers like to know where their money goes, have a direct line to those spending it, and see it spent reaching consumers rather than supporting what Lehigh calls "layered bureaucracy" and "administrative boondoggles"

There's no guarantee Lehigh would support the above proposal. The idea would have to go before its Board of Directors who could vote to mellow their position in keeping with members' wishes

But it could eliminate one more stone in the field of stumbling blocks which now stands in the way of a statewide milk promotion program



THE POWER OF A GENTLE MAN

January 25, 1981

Background Scripture:
Matthew 11 through 12.
Devotional Reading:
1 Samuel 3:10-21.
The political honeymoon

will soon be over — that is, if our nation runs true to course. Perhaps it's already over. If the past is any indication, most of us will be watching carefully to see whether the new President can meet our expectations. Some of us will vigorously maintain that he does, while others of us will quickly express our disappointment and even outrage

The problem may not be as much with the Presidents we elect as with our expectations. What we expect in one way or another is a Messiah, and what we get is a human being struggling to fulfill the gigantic tasks of

the office of the President of the United States. It is understandable then that we are soon asking, "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" I'm sure that by now, some Americans are already looking for "another"

What You Hear And See

How can we know whether this President is the one "who is to come"? Some of us would paraphrase Jesus and answer, "Go and tell what you see, the voters have tax relief, the criminals are being punished, the poor are losing their 'free ride,' the Russians are being told-off, and the special interest

groups are getting what they wanted"

Those would have been popular words if Jesus had uttered them, for you can't go wrong with appealing to people's pocketbooks, fear of crime and corruption, and their sense of national pride. Jesus, however, wasn't a very good politician — let's face it, he couldn't have won an election — and his reply to John's disciples still makes us uneasy. "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have

good news preached to them." (11:4,5) This is one of the most remarkable statements in the New Testament. Jesus authenticates who he is, not with scriptural quotations, the recital of his theological platform, or a list of the important and powerful people whom he has attracted, but with his compassionate acts to those who cannot help themselves.

Gentle And Lowly

Nor did Jesus point with pride to the large crowds he was attracting or attempt to trade on the prestige and fleeting popularity that he was attracting. Instead of

posturing and flexing his news media muscles, Jesus projects an altogether different image than what the crowds have been looking for. "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (11:28,29)

Oh Jesus was a man of power — make no mistake about that — but it was the power of a humble, gentle and compassionate man. And we still don't know quite what to do with him — or ourselves.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
Phone 394 6851

TO DISPOSE OF DEAD ANIMALS CAREFULLY

We hope that livestock and poultry producers do not have this unpleasant chore to perform. However, there are bound to be some losses and some dead animals or birds that need attention. Too often, the habit is to throw them on the manure pile, or out behind the barn, until spring comes. This is a very bad practice and one

that should not be done. In some cases the animal or bird may have died due to an infection or some disease. With the carcass left in the open, stray dogs, cats, birds and other creatures are sure to find them. This can be a very definite source of infection for other birds or animals. Producers are urged to get the dead animals to a business handling them, such as a rendering plant, or burn or bury them. Many poultry producers have incinerators in which to burn the dead birds. Don't be guilty of spreading infection with your dead animals

TO CONDITION WOOD

Wood has become a very definite source of energy; many wood stoves and fireplaces are contributing to the heating of the home or building. However, this wood will not produce good heat if it is wet or green, some wood may only produce 50 percent or less of the normal amount of BTU's when not properly cured and dry. Users of wood are urged to get their supply of wood on hand months ahead of the using time, or be sure to have a source of seasoned wood. Before wood will burn, the moisture must be removed, with high moisture wood you are using too much of the wood's heating value to evaporate the water. Most wood will

require at least six months time to get rid of the excess moisture.

TO ORDER FARM AND GARDEN SUPPLIES

My source of economic farm information indicates that most of our seeds and supplies will be costing more this year. No doubt many of the prices have already advanced since last season. However, it is always good planning to look ahead and get your supplies lined up long before the day that you need them. I'm thinking of seeds, fertilizers and all pesticides. With many commercial concerns early orders can enjoy special price discounts. Also, when ordering early, the buyer is more sure of getting exactly

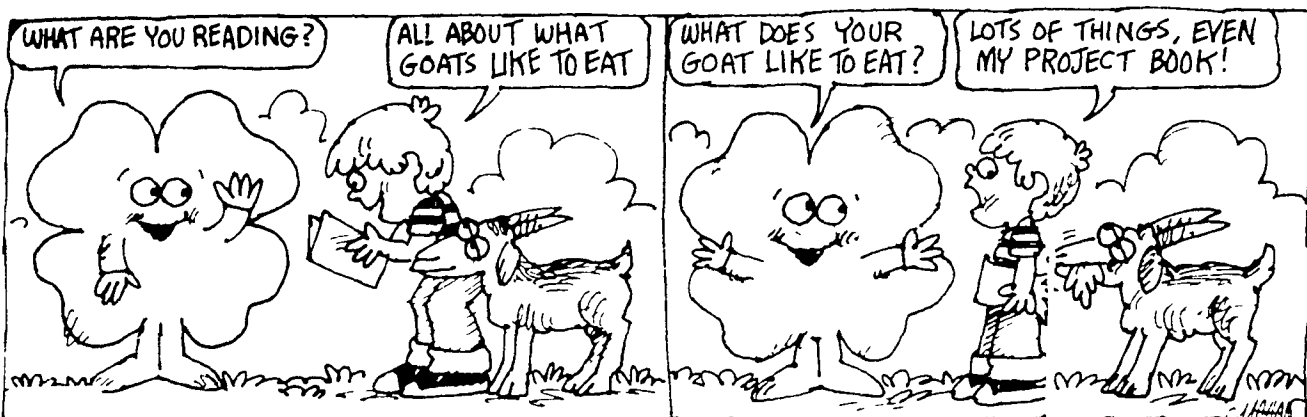
what he wants. I'd suggest that all growers of crops and vegetables give some thought to their need now, rather than to wait until planting time

TO BEWARE OF "BARGAINS"

Too often we hear of a local farmer, or home gardener, that has been left "holding the bag" when buying a product from a stranger. We do have salesmen that drive the county trying to sell certain farm and home products at what seems very good prices. Some of these may be

good and the sale made in good faith; however, when buying from a stranger you do not have any chance of adjustment, if the product is not as represented. Since we are fortunate to have local concerns selling most of our needs for farm and home, why should anyone take the chance of dealing with a complete stranger? In many cases the best place to deal is where you have a reputable person and one who will give good service and adjustments. Don't take chances on special "bargains"; they could cost you money.

CHRIS CLOVER



Farm Calendar

Today, January 24
1981 Farmers' Week in New Jersey begins. Continues through next Saturday.
York County 4-H officers training, 4-H Center, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
York County Sheep & Wool Producers banquet, York New Salem Fire Hall, 7 p.m.
Lehigh County 4-H livestock awards, Germansville Fire Hall, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, January 26
State Council of Farm

Organizations annual meeting, 10:30 a.m., Penn Harris Motor Inn, Camp Hill, legislative banquet, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, January 27
Montgomery - Bucks Crops Day, 4-H Center, Rt. 363, Lansdale
Farm tax meeting, Sheraton Inn, Rt. 220, Altoona, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lancaster Cattle Feeders Day, Farm & Home Center, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
(Turn to Page A24)