



Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor

Milk toast for Moms

Mothers who have a hard time convincing their kids that drinking milk is better than cola can take heart. Soon the 'soft, soft drink' may be the drink of dignitaries and children alike.

Hard to believe? Actually, mothers will be given some ammunition for battling the "I'd rather have" syndrome through some rather refreshing legislation that is now wandering its way across the floors of the state government.

As all good legislation does, this bill carries a label as it travels through the House. At its conception, it was called House Bill 1351. That I.D. will stick with this bill until it passes to the Senate and finally goes to the Governor's desk for his 'John Henry', hopefully before June 1.

Now, just what's the magic in those four numbers prefixed by HB?

Well, if everything goes

smoothly, milk — already recognized as the REAL thing — will become the official beverage for Pennsylvania.

Imagine what that will mean for the dairy producers of the state. Why, their surpluses will have to start shrinking, right?

Instead of a pitcher of water at every head table of every official meeting, there'll be a pitcher of milk. Champagne will have to be put back on the shelf when the occasion calls for a toast. Milk is better anyway — it doesn't tickle the nose.

With legislators setting the pace, it won't be long before other celebrities order a glass of milk with lunch instead of three martinis.

So, it will be easy after all the grownups start downing a few more gallons of the pasteurized, homogenized white stuff to convince the kids that milk has to be the thing to drink.

In what may be the shortest

Peepin' at the farm picture



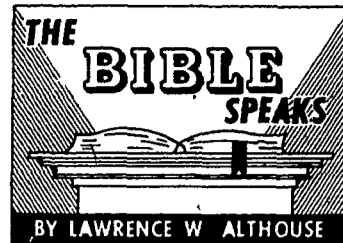
piece of legislation ever to pass through the hallowed halls of the Capitol, HB 1351 is a refreshing break.

This piece of legislation helps keep Pennsylvania agriculture in the spotlight, and helps support our state's productive dairy industry.

The only question left is — "What other ag product can we tack on to the milk bill?" How about the official Pennsylvania meat, or fruit, or vegetable?

No, that would never do. The only thing the legislators would stand for would be ... milk and cookies.

Anyway, moms, Happy Mother's Day. Enjoy a 'milk' toast with the kids. Here's to HB 1351.



NOT WITH ANGELS!
May 10, 1981

Background Scripture:
Hebrews 2:10 through 4:13

Devotional Reading:
John 6:35-41, 44-45.

That has got to be one of the comforting expressions of our Christian faith: "For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham" (Hebrews 2:16).

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Messiah, the Risen Lord, but he knows who I am and he is concerned about me!

In the world there is always a "pecking order," a chain of command, respect and prestige. The privates of this world do not sup with the generals and field marshalls. Corporation presidents do not share lunch with the office boy. Movie stars and entertainers do not invite the mailman to dinner. The "great people" of our world speak to other "great people."

But Jesus Christ is concerned about ME!

All One Origin

How can that be?

Perhaps it can be because, although he has been exalted as the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, Christ nevertheless shares with each of us the experiential knowledge of what it means to be a human being. Although we see Christ the reflected image of God the Father, we also recognize that

he has walked in our shoes and been where we have been.

The writer of Hebrews puts it plainly: "For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin" (2:11). In elevating Christ to his position as Risen Lord we tend to forget that he reflects as much of human nature as he does the "image" of God. He did not descend to earth on a fluffy white cloud, but entered it — possibly kicking and screaming — as we did. Therefore, we can be much closer to Christ than we realize, for we share the same human nature. As the writer to the Hebrews puts it, "he himself partook of the same nature..." Another writer once said of Christ: "He became what we are so that we might become what he is."

In Every Respect

The writer of Hebrews jolts us when he says, "Therefore he had to be made like his brethren in every respect..." (2:17). Doesn't it boggle your mind to think that Christ was made like us in every respect? You mean to say there were times when he had to struggle with right and wrong? That he had dark thoughts at times and deep desires just as we do? That he did not always feel loving towards some people? That he had to wrestle daily with his ego? His pride?

Yes, the writer of Hebrews says "in every respect." But why? So that, says Hebrews, "he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people." He could not be God's Christ if he could not be our Saviour. He could not atone for our sins if he had never known its power. So, "because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted." That "those" means ME. It is with me — and you — not the angels, that Christ is concerned.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

Anyone who works is guaranteed a minimum wage by law, currently \$3.35 an hour. According to some hard-working dairy farmers, that's more than they make per hour with a capital investment of

\$300,000 or more, earning \$12,000 to \$30,000 annually from all sources.

We suggest the federal price support program be retitled the federal minimum price program.

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To Check Farm Ponds
Many ponds are showing both algae and weed infestation build-up and as the weather gets warmer, these pond plants will begin to grow. Permits are needed in order for the owner to use the proper material, and to protect livestock downstream from the pond. Before any ponds are treated in Pennsylvania with any chemical or fertilizer, the owner should get a permit from the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. Application for the permit is available from the Pennsylvania Waterway Patrol Office or from our Penn State Extension Office.

To Prepare To Plant Soybeans
Soybeans should be planted in warm moist soil. A thermometer is ideal in helping you decide when is the best planting date. Special bayonet type thermometers are best.

The ideal soil temperature is about 62°F. The reading should be taken at about 8:00 a.m. when soil temperature has stabilized. The thermometer should be inserted at least two inches in the soil.

Many people planting soybeans for the first time will either end up with too many plants per acre or too few. This will happen because they will use the pounds per acre philosophy which won't work with soybeans. Because the soybean seed differs greatly in size, this also means they differ greatly in number of seeds per pound. For example, one variety may average 2,100 seeds per pound while another variety averages 3,100 seeds per pound - a difference of 1,000 seeds per pound. So, if you plant a bushel of seed with 85

percent germination, that's a difference of about 48,000 plants per acre.

The only way to plant beans is by seeds per foot of row. If a grain drill is used, three beans per foot of row is plenty. If a 30-inch corn row is used, 8 to 9 beans per foot of row is about right.

To Handle

Leftovers Properly

We always seem to have a little bit of this and a little bit of that left over when we finish a job. Surplus seeds, fertilizer and spray materials are quite common and can be used in the future. However, it is very important to store them away from children, pets and livestock. Half-empty bags of fertilizer or pesticides can be an invitation to trouble. These materials should be kept in a special room or building and doors kept under lock (preferably a combination lock so there are no keys to lose).

There are too many cases where children and livestock have had access to these materials with fatal results. Take time to put them where they belong and prevent a serious problem.

Also, leftover seeds should not be used for food or feeding purposes. Most of these are treated with chemicals to prevent insect or disease damage.

To Accurately Predict Pregnancy in Swine

With today's hog market, you have to determine as soon as possible whether a sow is pregnant.

In recent years, ultrasonic echo devices have been used. Research at Penn State indicates such devices are most accurate when

sows are tested from 45 to 60 days after conception. The most common error found in the study was falsely identifying sows as not being pregnant when they actually had conceived.

Accuracy was about 88 percent in those sows at least 30 days into pregnancy. The rate was as high as 95 percent on sows that had been pregnant 45 to 60 days. If your herds have excellent conception rates (88 percent or greater) at first breeding, you may not need to invest in ultrasonic equipment. Herds with conception rates less than this figure may find the instruments have some value. If you do use one, wait until at least 45 days after breeding to test.

Farm Calendar

Today, May 9
Flemington, N.J. Feeder Calf Sale, 1 p.m., Hackettstown Auction.

Sunday, May 10
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY.

Tuesday, May 12
Chester County Equine Council, Widner Amphitheatre, New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, 7:30 p.m.

Berks County Equine Center, Ag Center, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 13
Hunterdon County N.J. Ag Board, 8 p.m., Extension Center, R6, Flemington, N.J.

Swine AI short course, 9:30, Georgetown Substation, University of Delaware.

Friday, May 15
Montgomery County Holstein Banquet, Dairy Princess

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HAY HAWS



ENGLEMAN