



## Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor

### Calling the question

Why should almost \$2 million in taxpayers' hard earned money be spent to clean up "nonpoint source" pollution in the headwaters of the Conestoga River when a private firm is plotting to dump hazardous waste in an old clay mine in the watershed?

That's a question we posed to a local federal conservation official whose reply was "That's a good question."

But that's exactly the situation that lurks at the source of the City of Lancaster's and several other smaller communities' supply of water, on which 175,000 people rely.

Let's face the facts. The federal government has earmarked a considerable sum under the Rural Clean Water Program to help farmers in Lancaster County to clean up their act. Specifically, the program is designed to stop manure runoff and water coming off cropland fields that may be carrying fertilizer, insecticides, and pesticides from polluting this stream and its tributaries.

And yet, a private business is in the process of creating an environment that could potentially destroy the efforts of hundreds of farmers in

trying to preserve the Conestoga's water quality. Although it's known that the firm plans to be getting rid of some industrial type of "hazardous waste" in this old mine site, it is still a mystery just what will be dumped.

Fortunately, the progress of the land sale transaction has been stymied, at least for a while, by local opposition from the citizens of three townships in which the 450 acre tract is located.

This is not the first time such a plan has clashed with concerned citizens. A similar plan in nearby York County also learned how strongly the residents opposed their neighborhood from becoming the home for hazardous waste. Just having TMI in our backyards keeps everyone edgy and alert to any other potential pollutant slipping in unannounced.

Admittedly, there is room for improvement on quite a few farms, not only in Lancaster County but in others as well, when it comes to runoff and erosion control. We're not shirking responsibility for trying to curb the rate in which precious topsoil inches its way into the streams and rivers that flow through our productive agricultural areas. And, with the exorbitant bills

we pay for chemical fertilizer, herbicides, and insecticides, who can afford to watch it run off with every little rain.

There's no question that we can use the close to \$2 million to install manure holding ponds, diversions, and cropland terraces which are designed to help keep our streams clear. The boost these funds will provide over the next ten years will make an otherwise practically insurmountable problem of tackling nonpoint pollution problems a much easier chore. Not only the farming community will benefit from this taxpayer investment, but so will our city neighbors who depend on the Conestoga for their water needs.

We've all experienced the devastating effects drought can create — last year's long hot dry summer has sketched its mark indelibly on our minds. We realize more than ever how critical our water supply is to everyone, and how keeping it clean and clear of pollutants and hazardous waste is important.

Stopping nonpoint source pollution from the flowing into the Conestoga River is something the farming community can deal with — but an unknown hazardous waste is another question.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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### TO REMOVE BROKEN LIMBS IN PASTURES

The high winds that accompany summer storms can create problems in pasture fields. Broken limbs lying around may be hazardous to your livestock. If you have any wild cherry or choke cherry branches lying in your pasture fields, be sure to remove them before allowing any livestock in the fields.

When leaves are damaged by broken limbs, they wilt down and a poisonous substance is formed within the leaves. Just a handful of these wilted leaves can kill a cow or several sheep if they are eaten. Death occurs very quickly because the poison interferes with the oxygen carrying ability of the blood. Treatment is possible, but the animals are usually found dead in the field.

The only way to eliminate the danger of wild cherry poisoning is to eliminate the trees. Fields with wild cherry should be checked for fallen limbs after a storm; it's a simple precaution and could save a cow or a whole herd.

### TO KEEP PESTICIDE RECORDS

Today's battle with insects, fungus, rodents and weeds require the use of many different chemicals. It is important to keep an accurate record of any chemical used. This would include the date, name of material, application rate, field number and even the direction the wind is blowing. This might save a lot of trouble and loss of income in case there is some question.

Many food items are being checked by Food and Drug representatives for pesticide residue. It is possible to find residue even where the producer followed regulations and every recommended practice. Your record would be very important in these cases.

### TO OBTAIN A NEW DAIRY REFERENCE MANUAL

Dairyman who survive the 1980's will be those who can manage cows and a large amount of money. They will be well informed, and they will be effective in using the services and supplies available to them, through ag industries. To

make wise management decisions, dairyman will need many facts, such as those found in Penn State's new "Dairy Reference Manual".

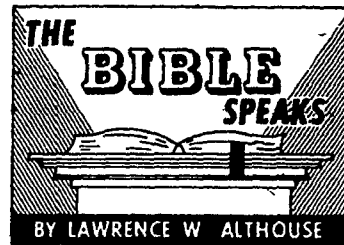
This new publication is a major revision of the previous, successful manual. It is a catalog of facts for dairyman and for ag industry personnel. A variety of topics are included, such as: feeding, diseases, parasites, breeding, selection, farm management data, milking equipment, milk quality, product technology, etc. The manual can be obtained by writing to Dairy Manual, Box 6000, University Park, PA 16802. Send a check in the amount of \$7.50 payable to The Pennsylvania State University.

### TO CONTROL PARASITES IN LIVESTOCK

The blood-sucking parasites of sheep, horses, and cattle thrive and multiply in large numbers during hot weather. Each female worm produces up to 10,000 eggs daily during warm weather.

These eggs hatch, very quickly

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UNCLAIMED PROMISES  
June 14, 1981

Background Scripture:  
Deuteronomy 1  
Devotional Reading:  
2 Corinthians 13:5-13

Every year millions of dollars lie unclaimed in bank accounts, apparently forgotten by those who have legitimate claims upon them. Banks are required by law to advertise in an attempt to find the owners or heirs, but large sums, I am told, still go unclaimed.

It is hard for us to imagine—particularly in these times of economic uncertainty—money deposits going unclaimed by legitimate owners. Yet, it seems to be a principle operative in life that we are often unaware of the resources around us that could meet the needs of mind, body and spirit. Frequently we are simply blind to what is so close...at hand and, even if we are aware, we still may fail to claim the very thing we need.

#### Take Possession!

We see this same tendency reflected in the story of the first chapter of Deuteronomy. After wandering years in the wilderness, the Hebrew people under Moses, finally came to the hill country of Amorites which God had promised them. "Behold," says Moses to the people, "the Lord your God has set the land before you; go up, take possession, as the Lord...has told you" (1:21)

It was suggested that they first send out some scouts or spies, for the Hebrews were hesitant to do what they were commanded. Back came the spies' report: "It is a good land which the Lord our God gives us." God has commanded them and the report of their spies was favorable, but the fear of the people was greater than their faith and they refused to obey.

It is easy for us to condemn the fearfulness of the Hebrews, but it is no longer important that the Hebrews refused to claim God's promises, but that we do not. It seems that there is always a danger of expecting too much from God, of treating him as a divine Santa Claus. But at the same time I think we are also in danger of expecting too little. In fact, if we err on either side today, I would suggest that our problem today is one of failing to take seriously God's promise and claiming what he wants to give us.

#### Do Not Be Afraid!

No matter how often Moses reminded them of God's promises, no matter how favorable was the reconnaissance report, the people were too fearful to claim the promises. Rumors had reached them, saying: "The people (Amorites) are greater and taller than we; the cities are great and fortified up to heaven..." (1:28). Nothing so keeps us from realizing and receiving the gifts of God than our fears.

What is the source of that incapacitating fear? I believe it is a fear that God will not keep his promise and we would rather not try risk being disappointed and disillusioned. But life cannot be lived in fear; far better to take the chance of failure for the sake of claiming the promises and giving God the opportunity to give us his good gifts.

## OUR READERS WRITE

### For shame, dairymen

We as dairy farmers have plenty to gripe about and I laud the Dairy Princesses and "Milky" who are doing such a splendid job.

Those of us having large financial obligations can hardly consider reducing our herd size. And we complain that consumption is down.

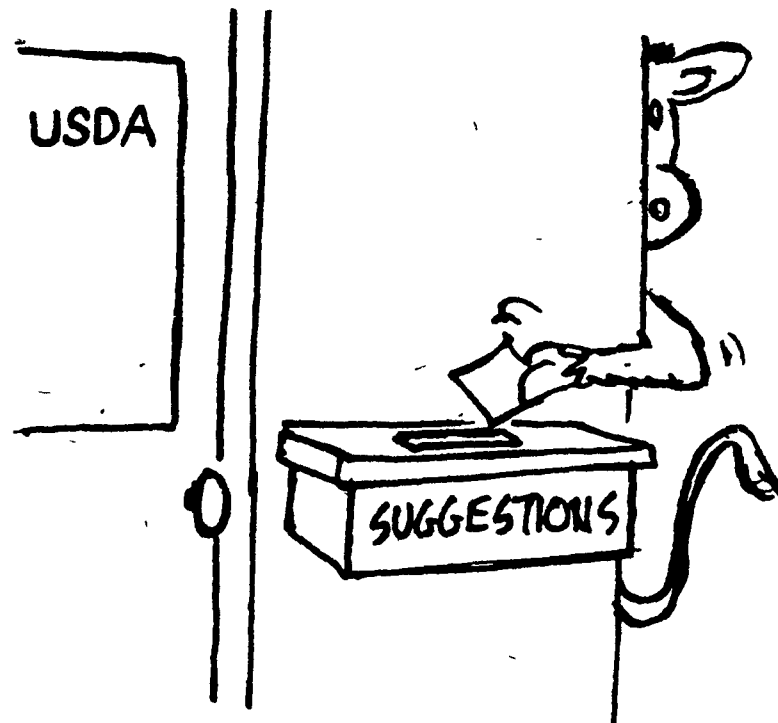
I agree with the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess, Cindy Neely, "it's not overproduction, it's under consumption," caused in part by under-promotion. How can we urge

non-dairy farm folk to use delicious dairy products when many dairy farmers use imitation dairy products themselves? Maybe we need the "Real Seal" as much as the rest of the buying public.

A case on page C6 in the Home on the Range section saluting June Dairy Month, I am mystified that you would print recipes in such a section using none dairy products,

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## HAY HAWS



You skipped our pay raise in April. I hope you're not going to forget us again on October 1.