

OUR READERS WRITE

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Soviet Union, come up with the money — the Administration simply rushed to the side of the big bankers and paid off the loans with tax dollars.

There action was somewhat surprising.

This Administration's message to working people in America the past year has been a clear and simple one: "Don't look to Washington for a solution to your problems." That was the rationale which allowed them to cut farm, health, education, nutrition, and retirement programs deeply as they shifted those funds to the Pentagon.

But once the big banks began to get a little nervous about the \$71 million in shaky loans they held, the Administration rushed the government back into the problem solving business. Without even waiting for an official "default" declaration, they simply scooped \$71 million out of the federal pocket-book and delivered it to the bankers.

The Administration's rationale for all this is that letting the loans

go into default would have caused grave economic consequences for the international financial community. And they say there's still a chance — even they admit it's a slim chance — that Poland will eventually repay the federal treasury.

It's a fact that suspending that long-term grain agreement talks with the Soviet Union — action taken back when the Administration was still talking "tough" about Poland — has helped to depress farm prices and helped cause serious economic problems for the American farm community.

Somehow, though, that doesn't seem to matter much at the White House. It's apparently okay to pay off the debts of the Soviet backed military regime in Poland when to do otherwise would hurt the big banks, but we won't even discuss selling more U.S. grain to the Soviet Union, even though that hurts American farmers.

Tom Harkin
Iowa Congressman
Washington, D.C.

Keep in touch

As a former farmer of Bucks County who is still a member of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association, and who still loves all types of farming but to this day has had very little success at being able to get back to the life that I love so much, I would like to say that I am so glad for the paper that you people put out. It keeps me in such close touch with all the things that I love and that make this world a better place to live.

I really like the pictures you have been putting in the paper each week under "Farmland Preservation — It's worth it." If it is possible, I would like to see these pictures in color as I think it would let people see the real, true colors and beauty of agriculture as it is

today — and as we hope it will be tomorrow.

I also would like to add that any young person who has a chance to get into farming but who doesn't will, in time, be very sorry for not doing so when they had a chance. I think farmers are a very great and special breed of people and there are not too many of them left.

Maybe someday I will be able to get back to the farm life that I love so much. That is, if the good Lord is willing and with a lot of luck. In the mean time, I hope that all of you at Lancaster Farming will keep up the good work and continue to publish for years to come. Thank you for your paper.

Barry S. Hillborn Sr.
Philadelphia

I would like to clarify and correct some of the statements attributed to me in Ginger Sechrist Myers' article entitled, "Goat Breeders discuss drug uses" in the January 30 issue of Lancaster Farming.

First of all, I do not recommend or endorse the use of any organic preparations for parasite control. While various organic approaches such as garlic, walnut shells and diatomaceous earth were discussed, at the meeting, I have personally never tried any of these methods. My comment about sharp edges was in reference to diatomaceous earth, not walnut shells. I stated that those who suggest using diatomaceous earth claim that the sharp edges of the tiny skeletons puncture the outer shell of the parasites. I did not intend to imply that I agreed with this belief or practice it in my herd's management.

Most importantly, I would like to correct the statements attributed to me regarding the use of Rumensin as a control against coccidiosis infections in dairy goat kids. I asked the group whether anyone present had any information about the use of Rumensin as a control against coccidia infections in dairy goats, because a friend had told me she had heard it was effective. I have never used Rumensin for any purpose, and have never stated that I did so. John Schwartz, Penn State Extension Agent, who was present at the meeting stated, that Coban (Monensin Sodium) was being used as a coccidiostat in poultry and that Rumensin was a similar formulation developed for use in ruminants, but that it was being used to increase feed efficiency in beef cattle, not as a coccidiostat.

I also am concerned that



Goat story goofs

someone reading this article might get the impression that I or anyone else present at the SCPDGA meeting advocates the use of any drug or treatment without veterinary consultation and thorough research of the pros and cons of any product or procedure. Unfortunately, relatively few drugs have gained FDA approval for use in goats, not because they may not be safe and effective, but because there are relatively few goats in the United States to justify

the enormous testing cost necessary to secure FDA approval. Goat owners usually often have difficulty finding veterinarians with great depth of caprine practice. As a result, goat owners are forced to rely more heavily on their own research and experience than breeders of other domestic species. Those of us who have competent vets are fortunate.

I strongly urge that any livestock medication be used only with veterinary consultation.

Farm Calendar



- Today, Feb. 13**
Garden Spot Young Farmers' annual banquet, 6:45 p.m., Blue Ball Fire Hall.
- Monday, Feb. 15**
Schuylkill County Winter Vegetable Meeting, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Ringtown Banquet Hall.
York Farmers Association regional training session, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Holiday Inn, Denver.
Bradford Crops Workshop, Troy Vo-Ag, 8 p.m.
East Smithfield 4-H dairy meeting, 8 p.m., Eugene Harris farm, Bradford County.
- Tuesday, Feb. 16**
Franklin County Dairy Day, 10 a.m., Lemasters Community Center.
Cecil County, Md. Dairy Day, 9 a.m., Calvert Grange Hall, Rising Sun.
Lancaster County Crops and Soils Day, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Farm & Home Center.
Atlantic Breeders Co-op, District 5, 7 p.m., Quarryville.
Montgomery Commercial Vegetable Meeting, Kulpville, Holiday Inn.
Adams County manure conservation workshop, 7:30 p.m., Gettysburg High School.
Lancaster County Holstein barn meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Tri-County beef meeting, 8 p.m., Extension Center, Flemington, N.J.
Berks County Estate Planning Clinic, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Ag Center, continues through Wednesday.
Bradford Crops Workshop, 8 p.m., Wyalusing Vo-Ag classroom.
Bradford 4-H Advisory Committee, 8 p.m., Extension Of-
- ice, Towanda.
- Wednesday, Feb. 17**
Eastern Shore Dairy Herdsmen Workshop, Chestertown.
Southeast Pa. soybean meeting, 10 a.m., Bucks County Warrington Motor Lodge Restaurant.
Red Rose Alliance, 7:30 p.m., Goodville Fire Hall.
Northeast Vegetable Day, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Milwaukee Methodist Church, near Tunkhannock.
Frederick County, Md. sheep breeders meeting, 7:30 p.m., Extension Office.
- Thursday, Feb. 18**
Cecil County, Md. Agronomy Day, 9 a.m., Calvert Grange Hall, Rising Sun.
York County Dairy Day, 10 a.m., 4-H Center, Bair.
Inter-State Co-op, District #7, noon, Mt. Joy.
Poultry Educational meeting, Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 7:30 p.m.
Keystone Pork Congress, begins 8 a.m., Penn Harris Motor Inn, Harrisburg.
Atlantic Breeders Co-op, District 4, Meeting 2, Blue Ball, 7 p.m.
Lancaster County Holstein barn meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Berks sheep production barn meeting, 7 p.m., Robert & Sue Hollowbush farm.
- Friday, Feb. 19**
Adams County Dairy Day, 9:30 a.m., York Springs Fire Hall.
Pa. Farm-City Council meeting, 10 a.m., Pa. Kiwanis Office, Camp Hill.
- Saturday, Feb. 20**
National FFA Week begins.
Berks-Lebanon beef feeder evening, Bethel Junior High School.

Now is the Time

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degrees below zero . . . not ten above as the thermometer reads.

That's why farmers and others who work outside in the winter should dress warmer than they feel is necessary. Remember: when the wind is blowing, the temperature not only feels colder, it is colder. Don't dress for the thermometer . . . dress for safety, and dress warmly.

To Plan Forage Management

A good supply of quality forages is one of the most important things in the feeding program of dairymen, cattlemen and sheep producers. Growers should now be planning what kind of forage crops they hope to produce this year.

Both hay and silage crops respond to good management. Growers who make a special effort to obtain maximum yields of quality forages usually produce more than the average.

Some of the top alfalfa growers produce double the tonnage per acre than the average. This did not just happen. They planned and made decisions on data from their farm records. Doing all the practices that have been successful, and doing them on time, will normally bring good results.

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