



Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor



So now what?

Now that we've turned down the milk marketing referendum, just what are we going to do about the dairy situation in the state of Pennsylvania?

Anybody have any new ideas? If you do, now's the time to let your dairy leaders know about them. Because in just a few weeks, Secretary Hollowell will be having a brainstorming session with these folks.

Not that he's anticipating any earth-shattering solutions to surface. Hollowell has heard the comments from hundreds of dairy producers and industry leaders during the past several months. Even prior to the referendum hearings, there were sessions between the state agriculture leaders and farm groups on what to do about the dairy situation — they've been going on for two years.

But, it's evident through the outcome of the referendum vote, that what farmers were telling the Department wasn't interpreted correctly or wasn't what you meant to say. Because PDA's proposed marketing program received a strong "no" from the farmers it was designed to help.

So what do dairy farmers want or need to solve their financial dilemmas through stronger milk sales?

Some say no government involvement when it comes to advertising. Let the cooperatives and local dairies carry out brand name advertising where producers can see the results first hand.

Some say encourage more dairy farmers to feed their own milk to calves instead of buying milk replacer. That would help to take a big swallow out of the milk surplus tanks.

Still others say more research is needed to develop ways to make milk more appealing and marketable. Let the universities find ways of prolonging the shelf-life of milk. Let's change the laws to allow milk shakes to be served in Pennsylvania's school systems.

And some dairy farmers even point to quota systems that limit the amount of milk farmers can produce. Ironically, these are some of the same people who adamantly opposed mandatory marketing checkoffs.

At this point, these are all good ideas — any ideas about how to handle the milk surplus-consumption drop problems are steps in the right direction.

If proponents of the "No Milk Tax" committee practice what they "preach" they must admit to the benefits of advertising for selling ideas, so why not milk? They, along with Pennsylvania Farmers' Union, invested \$24,146.05 into an advertising campaign against the milk promotion program — using mailings, newspapers and radio to get their messages to the voting farmers.

If dairy producers don't soon invest in some measure of control over the skyrocketing production which threatens to curb federal dairy price supports, it may be a close race to see which gets culled the hardest — the dairy producers or their cows. And that won't be put up for a vote.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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To Check 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 pastures 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.

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To Prepare Grain Bins

We are approaching barley harvest season with wheat not too far behind, so I would like to remind our grain producers that now is a good time to clean up your grain bins in preparation to harvest. First, clean out all the old grain. Sweep down all the sidewalls and floor making sure to

remove old grain lodged in the cracks.

Next spray the floor and walls with a residual insecticide. Malathion and methoxychlor are still very effective — follow the label for directions. Finally, prevent birds and rodents from entering the bin. Repair holes with metal or other rat proofing material. Clean up all spilled grain around the bin to discourage the various pests from the area.

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To Check Hay Temperatures

Due to poor hay making conditions, much of our first cutting hay may have been too wet when baled and may be heating excessively. This could result in spoilage, decreased feeding value or spontaneous combustion. If you suspect your hay is heating, County Agent Glenn Shirk advises checking its temperature. Drive a pipe down into the hay and lower a thermometer down the pipe. During normal sweating, hay temperatures may rise to 120°F. At 150°F you are approaching the danger zone; check temperature daily. At 160°F you are in the danger zone, monitor temperature every 4 hours. Hot spots and fire pockets may be anticipated at 175°F, alert your fire company. Start removing hay at 185°F; be careful not to drop down into a fire pocket; have fire protection and rescue service standing by.

To Minimize Cost of Gains

Cost of gains in the cattle feedlot are often higher during the summer months due to heat, humidity, flies, and fleshy feeders from relatively fast growing winter rations.

Several management practices are available that can minimize the detrimental impact of summer feeding claims. Chester D. Hughes, Extension Livestock Agent.

—Locate or modify lots to take advantage of summer breezes

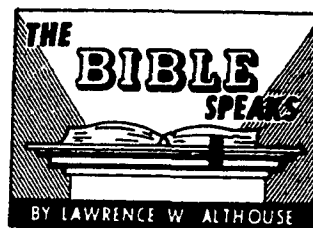
—Use fairly small capacity waterers so the water consumed will be cool to help reduce body temperatures

—Feed just enough roughage to prevent serious digestive disturbances and allow for more night feeding during periods of 100 degree temperatures

—Practice strict sanitation to minimize fly problems — don't let manure, or spilled feed accumulate, cover silage with plastic and clean vacant pens.

—Adjust purchase price of fleshy feeders downward to compensate for slower feedlot gains

—Shorten days on feed slightly on cattle that would normally be sold in July and August in an attempt to avoid selling during what is normally the hottest weather.



A LITTLE MAN BECOMES TALL

June 13, 1982

Background Scripture:

Luke 5:27-32; 15:1-7, 19:1-10.

Devotional Reading:

Luke 5:27-32.

The story of Zacchaeus occupies only 10 verses in Luke 19, but the Evangelist tells us a great deal about him.

He was a tax collector, Luke tells us—actually, a "chief tax collector," a commissioner of taxes, one in authority over all the tax collectors of that region. In other words, we might say that Zacchaeus was a "big man" in Jericho.

But no one really regarded Zacchaeus as a "big man." In everyone's eyes he was just the opposite: a man small in stature and held in even lower esteem because of his position as commissioner of taxes. Tax collectors have never been popular anywhere, but in Jesus' day they were despised because they collected taxes for the hated Roman oppressors. A tax collector was a collaborator with the enemy; a chief tax collector was a chief collaborator, who made his living off the oppression of his countrymen—often dishonestly at that.

He Climbed Up

To compound public disdain for Zacchaeus was the strange irony of

his name, which in Hebrew means "the pure" or "the righteous one." In the eyes of the people of Jericho, he was the epitome of all that was impure and upright. His name, therefore, was an affront to every upright citizen of the city.

Yet, whatever else Zacchaeus may have been, he was looking for something and when Jesus came to Jericho, he found it. Self-conscious of his stature, Zacchaeus wanted to be a big man, and so he was willing to climb a tree in order to see this Jesus of whom he had heard so much. (Is there not a certain irony in Luke's statement that Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, "but could not on account of the crowd"?)

How Jesus knew Zacchaeus, we will never know, but it appears that he knew enough about him—and what people thought of him—so that his challenge, "make haste and come down," had a definite purpose behind it. What Jesus saw, when he looked up, was not the little man whom everyone despised, but the Zacchaeus whom God had created to fulfill his name. Jesus saw the Zacchaeus that could become a truly "pure" and "righteous" man.

They All Murmured

Human nature has not changed much, has it? Instead of focussing on the wonderful thing that Jesus might be able to accomplish with Zacchaeus, the crowd murmured indignantly "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." They really shouldn't have been surprised, for Jesus frequently associated with the "wrong" people.

The day when Jesus passed through Jericho, because he saw that Zacchaeus had the capacity to live up to his name, the despised, little tax commissioner became a tall man. But the crowds displayed a littleness that we have still not outgrown even today.

OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

The pleasure's ours

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Lancaster County Conservation District, I would like to thank and commend you for the excellent Soil Stewardship

coverage in "Lancaster Farming" on May 15, 1982.

It was a pleasure to read the articles and to see the interest some farmers are taking in con-

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HAY HAWS



"From the looks of that. What this farm needs is a new owner."