

OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

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Farmers have done this numerous times in the past both relative to milk check offs and other issues. They are unwilling to be the victims of high pressure snow jobs. Farmers are capable of

managing their own affairs. We want less governmental intervention and less bureaucracy.

David R. Harrop
Mifflin Co. No Milk Tax,
dairy farmer, county
commissioner

When will we learn

Pennsylvania dairymen have voted! For the third time we have had the opportunity of supporting a unified marketing program in an effort to sell our product and have voted against it!

The message is slow getting through to us, that we have a 10 percent surplus of our product! Milk production is climbing and consumption of milk is decreasing. Statistics show that the average American drank forty gallons of soft drinks compared to twenty-nine gallons of milk last year in comparison to the opposite just a few years ago.

The news media is continually telling the consumer about the high

dairy price supports. Price supports will probably come to an end, as taxpayers object to this burden

I am very disappointed in the results of the referendum! When are we going to learn to accept some responsibility of marketing our own products?

Ten cents per cwt. would not solve all our problems, but it certainly would have been a step in the right direction! Hopefully, the "Milk tax boys," who worked so hard to get the referendum defeated, will come forward with their "better idea!"

A disturbed dairyman,
Ralph G. Sanner
Kutztown

Editorial support

Senate Bill 1283 passed the Pennsylvania General Assembly thanks to you. Lancaster Farming gave editorial support to this concept.

This legislation places restrictions in deeds of state-owned lands when being sold to the public. These restrictions will assure us that these lands will be

sold for food and fiber production

Governor Dick Thornburgh is expected to sign the bill into law within the month.

Thanks again for your editorial support

Keith W. Eckel
President
Pa. Farmers' Assn.

Greatest "farm crop" raised

Lancaster Farming overwhelmed this mother with the article about our family in your June 5 issue.

When I was told you had taped a conversation with our four children, I must admit I was a bit

apprehensive!

Our family is the greatest "farm crop" we have produced — I'm very proud of them as you know.

My thanks to you.

Trish Hallowell
Ottsville, Pa.

Milk surplus solution

After reading the June 12 editorial on the defeat of the milk referendum, I feel I have to write and tell you my solution to the surplus problem.

My solution is: let the milk companies lay off all the new shippers they have taken on in the last three years and make all the herds that have doubled and tripled their size cut back to where they were three years ago.

Why did the milk companies keep taking on new shippers? By a new shipper, I don't mean where a son took over on a farm that was set up in dairying for years and he stayed on the farm.

I know of a man that sold his cows, bulk tank and pipeline milkers two years ago and now wants to start milking cows again. Would you believe it—there is a milk company that will take him on.

I also know of a farm that is

milking 200 cows and wants to put in 70 more cows to milk.

It is not fair to us who have stayed the same size and have been milking for years to have to be penalized for the surplus when we didn't help create it.

There are farms where no milk was shipped for 10 to 20 years and now they have milk cows on them—during all this talk about surplus.

Also I've been reading that the U.S. government isn't spending as much money for dairy supports as it is spending on grain storage and other farm produce.

A dairy farmer's wife

Now is the Time

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sure to label all cans plainly so there is no danger of mix-up.

Diesel fuel and gasoline must be kept away from flame or heat. Strictly enforce NO SMOKING rules. Always refuel outdoors where vapors cannot accumulate. If you spill some fuel, wipe it up before starting an engine.

Storing any fuels in glass jugs or bottles is inviting trouble. It is also dangerous to use them to start burning trash, leaves, barbecue pits or stoves. Gasoline should not be used as a cleaning or degreasing agent. During this busy season, take time to be safe.

XXX
To Keep Pesticide Records
Today's battle with insects,

fungus, rodents and weeds requires the use of many different chemicals. It is important to keep an accurate record of any chemicals 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 when the producer followed regulations and every recommended practice. Your record would be very important in these cases.

XXX **To Feed Shrubs After Flowering Period**

Most people know that their plants do better if they're fertilized — but many ask when is the best time to feed shrubs.

One important thing to remember is that shrubs need feeding immediately following their flowering period.

For small shrubs, use one half a handful of a complete fertilizer such as a 5-10-10 or similar analysis. The fertilizer should be placed on the surface of the soil around the plants and lightly raked in.

After you've applied the plant food to the soil, it should be soaked in with rain or a healthy watering. Larger plants, of course, may be given a larger amount of plant food.

Once a plant is firmly and fully established... and in good growing condition... then it may not need regular fertilizer applications.

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