



Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor

Finding a substitute for food, farmers

I couldn't believe my eyes for the second time this year as I flipped through the news releases sent to us by the Penn State Extension Service. The first time I was aghast at the reading material they sent out was about five months ago. And it was quite a shock to me, since they're usually an excellent source of health, farm and food information.

At that time and against my better judgement, I decided to overlook their grand faux pas in hopes that it was merely a freak blunder, and the embarrassed writer would never make the same mistake twice.

Instead of being red-faced however, it's now apparent the staff writer is unappalled and ready to repeat the previous act of indiscretion by churning out more anti-meat, anti-milk stories.

Although I was irritated by their February release entitled "Try Meat Substitutes for a Change of Pace" in which the Extension writer typed out reasons why stand-ins for meats are both economical and nutritious, plus a list of "hearty, inexpensive meatless dishes," I was furious when I read a release sent out the last day of June Dairy Month which outlined how consumers can "cut their milk bills."

Amazing, isn't it? Last month Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell announced farmers turned down a program to educate consumers on the benefits of drinking more milk, and at the same time Penn State was preparing a story to educate consumers on how to pare down milk bills.

Written to be used as a public service announcement on the radio, the release advised parents not to deny their kids the "nutrition packed food" — milk — but to keep the budget balanced by purchasing nonfat dry milk.

Sure, you might say, milk's milk. Whether they drink it after it's been dried or straight from the pasteurizer, it doesn't matter as long as they gulp it down by the gallons.

But pushing dry milk consumption now doesn't help dairy farmers move their fluid milk into the marketplace instead of federal warehouses as production continues high after a record spring flush. Isn't it more economical to all concerned for consumers to buy the product that requires the least processing? So why push a product that costs more to take out the water when the consumer will just put it back later?

If any radio stations do use the news release, it's doubtful whether there will be a run on dry milk at the local grocery store. Why? Because consumers will remember that nonfat dry milk "may cause noses to wrinkle, if you remember the dry milk of old with its cooked flavor and undissolved particles."

Ugh. Who wants to take a swallow of milk after hearing that? Even though the release does go on to disclaim the old dry milk reputation, bringing up bad memories is one sure-fired way to kill a sale of dry milk — and it

could also have a ricochet-affect on other milk sales quite inadvertently.

Why does Extension feel it's necessary to advocate substituting and cutting corners in any food department — meat, dairy, grains, fruits or vegetables? Better they recommend substitutes for home video games, gas-guzzling cars, extravagant vacations, motor homes, and the other thousands of luxury, non-essential items consumers spend money on every day.

We expect this kind of cheap food propaganda from consumer advocate groups, but not from Extension — the folks who should understand well the serious economic dilemma facing American farmers. Funding for Extension's existence is channeled down through the U.S. Department of Agriculture — the same agency that provides the subsidies and price supports needed to keep farmers in business.

It is apparent the Extension news personnel are taking their cues from their boss, Secretary of Agriculture John Block who just recently led a U.S. delegation to the eighth ministerial meeting of the World Food Council in Acapulco, Mexico. The representatives of the 36-member countries reviewed major international food and hunger issues at the meeting, including greater efforts to overcome hunger through national food strategies.

The U.S. national food strategy has always been "cheap at all cost." And so our farm economy continues to slip under the weight of feeding the world's hungry.

Farming is not a charity — at least not based on the amount of taxes farmers pay to support middle-class America's share of the nation's budget deficit. Farmers need to receive full value for their product so that they can recoup their costs. Processors, too, should tack on their costs, and so on down the line. By the time the consumers put food into their basket, the cost of producing these life-sustaining nutrients should be summed. And, you can bet it won't be cheap.

Instead, farmers are forced into "missionary" status and will continue to carry the load of feeding the other 97 percent of the U.S. population and the rest of the world until the "burden of bills" overwhelms them.

Until their "dying" day, they will be lured into continuing the struggle to survive by fleeting profits which are quickly stripped away as packers and processors recoil from the sting of paying the farmers a better price, and consume a boycott higher-priced meats, milk, vegetables, and fruit.

Extension radio announcements and news releases are quick to find substitutes for meats and slimmer budgets for milk, when they should be advocating "fatter" budgets for food and farmers. There's just no substitute for them.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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To Be Aware of Summer Water Needs of Poultry

We know that hot weather increases the water consumption in our systems; well laying hens need a good water and nutrient supply during hot summer months also. It's important to keep hens as cool as conditions permit during hot weather. Furnish plenty of cool, high quality water and expect the

hens to spend more time drinking and less time eating.

Make a special effort to avoid stressing or exciting your chickens in hot weather and provide good ventilation with all fans clean and running properly.

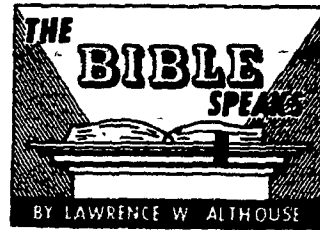
Keep in mind that chickens have no sweat glands, but cool themselves through respiration from their combs and wattles. Birds

cannot stand continuous high temperatures and high humidity. Let's do all we can to keep the birds comfortable during hot weather.

To Be Aware of Feeding New Grain

The barley harvest is underway and some farmers may be con-

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YOUR RIGHT TO BE ANGRY
July 11, 1982

Background Scripture: Acts 6:1 through 8:4.
Devotional Reading: Philippians 1:19-26.

Stephen had every right to be angry.

He was simply trying to do his job as a follower of Jesus Christ. It was not his intention to become involved in a dispute of any kind. He had been chosen to help in distributing equitably the goods to the whole congregation of Christ's disciples. He also spent much of his time as a teacher of "The Way," as Christianity was called in those days.

But, as so often happens in life, some people, it appears, had taken a disliking to him. For one thing, when they disputed with him about Christ, Stephen always prevailed in his point of view. The writer of Acts tells us: "they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke." Worst of all, as they saw it, this upstart was a Greek. Where did he get all his authority to teach the Gospel?

They Secretly Instigated Men

So, they determined to get him out of their hair. Having failed to best him to his face, they chose to plot behind his back, starting rumors that eventually would finish him. If the plot sounds somewhat familiar, it is just because so much of the affairs of life are conducted on that same

level. They did not like him and they were determined to "get" him. Who could blame Stephen if he had been bitter or even outraged? After all, it hadn't been the first time he had been insulted. Even when he had been chosen for special work in the Christian community, there were some impression that the Apostles considered the work he was to perform as beneath them: "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables."

How should Stephen react to all of this? You and I might counsel him to get back at his enemies in some way, to try to embarrass them or start a rumor campaign about them. Somehow, Stephen needs to find a way to get even.

Brethren, Hear Me

But Stephen wasn't looking to get "even" with his enemies. Instead of hitting back at them, he realized that, if he was to be faithful to Christ, he would have to rise above vindictiveness. Although he had every right to "blast" his critics and turn the tables on them, he chose to win them over instead of subjecting them to defeat.

It was a worthy goal, but it didn't seem to work. After teaching and appealing to their consciences, he found that it was all in vain. They didn't want to understand him, and they were doing all in their power to make sure that there would be no meeting of minds.

At this moment, Stephen, I believe, could have gone either way. He might easily have denounced them for their hardness of hearts and pronounced a scathing judgement upon them. Instead, Stephen decided there was only one way to cope with their hatred against him: he would bless them, just as Jesus had done when men had done their worst to him. "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

To the pure, all things are pure.

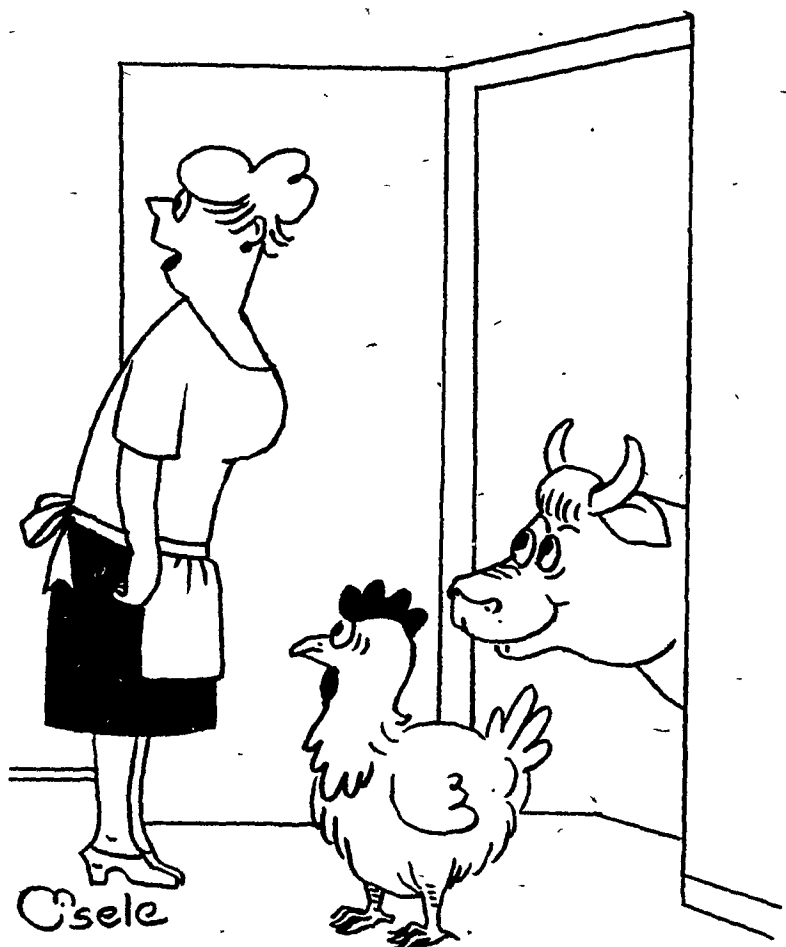
I hasten to defend Lancaster Farming's pictures and article on pages C2 and C4 of the June 12 issue.

All 4-H children and Future

Farmers are well aware of the necessity for this type of vet service. As a cattle and sheep producer, my husband was most

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HAY HAWS



"They want to know whether you'll be wanting eggs or milk for breakfast."