



# The Dairy Business

By  
Newton Bair

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Did you ever wonder how a writer comes up with an idea for a column every week or perhaps every day? I'll tell you how this one does it. It isn't easy. I usually begin by reviewing the news and events of the past weeks that farmers are talking about. Also, the things that I think they should be thinking about. Somewhere in all that there is usually an inspiration worth writing about. So much for ideas.

Now comes the tough part. After the title is on the screen, there is usually a long period of meditation, staring blankly at the first couple of words. Then I decide that there is something else that needs doing, so this chore can wait until I'm in a better mood for the job. A typical put-off-skey, a dilly dallier, a professional procrastinator. Later on though, after wasting a couple of hours in useful work like editing the comic

strips or reviewing the latest TV soap opera, the brain gets unglued and we're back in business.

Well, this time I got to thinking about some topics of conversation which are floating around among my friends. It got rather depressing, because there seems to be a lot of pessimism in the air these days. Over production, low prices, shortages of feed, the cold weather this winter, the heat last summer, the insolence of politicians, high interest rates, the unbalanced budget etc., etc., etc., ad nauseum. Everbody seems to be worrying about the Alphabet, Virus AI, BVD, TB, SCC, DHIA, ENA, TPI, PDT, PDM, PDF, and CI. There are probably a lot more kinds of alphabet soup, and if you don't find them palatable, don't feel bad, You are not alone. I'm not sure that I understand them either.

So, just for this one time, I thought it would be good for the digestion to do some positive thinking. After all, there must be plenty of pleasant things going on in the farm scene. Like, for instance, having extra time to spend with the family during the long

winter evenings, and spending a profitable and enjoyable day with your neighbors attending dairy meetings. Some of you might even take a winter vacation. How about a week in Hawaii or New Orleans or Disney World? Or even a weekend visiting Aunt Christie and Uncle Bob can do you worlds of good.

Did you visit and use a Library lately? There are several excellent ones in nearly every town, and they are free. If you haven't done it, take an afternoon off and browse around in your community library. Just looking at the endless array of good books should inspire you to want to dig into that vast fund of information. There is no excuse for anybody pleading ignorance on their favorite subject these days. Reading is one of our greatest priveleges, and there is no end to the variety of subjects, both educational and entertaining. I'm specially fortunate because Priscilla is a volunteer librarian and keeps our household well supplied with reading matter. We each read at least oen and

sometimes two books a week. It sure beats keeping your eyes glued to the tube!

Of course, we could go on and expound on the cliché's like Take time to smell the Daisies, and give that cute calf an extra pat on the head, or take a course on How to operate a Computer. They are all very sensible, in their proper season, and are symbolic of the positive attitude we are trying to accentuate. What it all boils down to is, don't get so blamed bogged down and depressed over the thorns and stumble-blocks of life. Let your imagination run a little wild this time of year, and do something a little different. It'll clear out a lot of cobwebs and make life a lot more fun and even make you more of a hero to your spouse and kids.

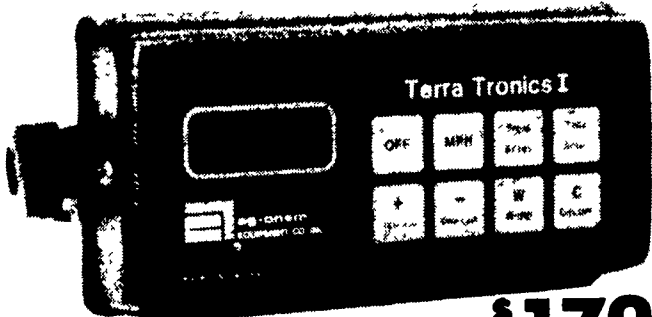
Just thinking these off-beat thoughts has given me a lift, and I can't even remember what it was that started me thinking about them in the first place. I can't wait to get back to the last chapter of Edwin Way Teals', "Journey into Summer". It is like taking a leisurly tour of the USA, and gets me all fired up for Spring. So much for the winter blues.

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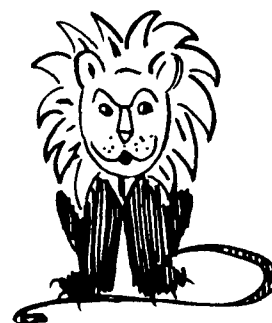


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