

## DAIRY'S FUTURE

Whatever it holds,  
it's in your hands

(Editor's Note: Today's editorial is written by Laura England, Dairy Editor of Lancaster Farming. Following her extensive travels back and forth across Pennsylvania gathering information for her "Dairy's Future" reports, she outlines some of her impressions and feelings as she talked with dairy farmers -- big and little, old and young. While this series concentrated on dairy, much of what it contains applies equally well to other phases of farming. Ag's future lies ahead of each of us -- no matter if our livestock moos, grunts, bleats, neighs or whatever. Collectively, ag's future is all of our future.)

BY LAURA ENGLAND

In January of this year, a dark, ominous cloud settled over the nation's dairy industry. Generated largely by a political front and a strong wind carrying the warning, "too much milk," the cloud grew more intense and threatened to flood the dairy industry with uncertainty and fear of its future existence. It was a storm so severe that only the fittest of farmers would survive.

Or so it seemed.

Now, six months later, the storm has begun to subside, although lightning stands ready to strike those unprepared and unprotected. The storm, it is predicted, may continue for the next two to three years, and what destruction it will leave behind is yet to be seen.

Fortunately for dairymen, weathering through a storm has become almost second nature. Dairymen learn early in their farming careers to expect the unexpected and be ready for anything. They also learn to use whatever is needed to stay afloat and continue their operations.

And so it is with dairymen today.

During this past month, June Dairy Month, four farm families shared with us their struggles, triumphs and future plans concerning their dairy operations. Each at a different level in their operations - one starting out, one retiring, one merchandising cattle

and the other concerned with milk production - these dairymen took a good look at their future and came up with similar thoughts and opinions.

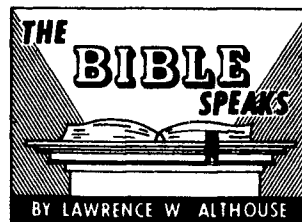
All agreed, as farm management specialist Fred Hughes pointed out in the first story, that over production is the major problem. Over the years, dairymen have created a 14 billion pound milk surplus. And while milk production increased, little was done to insure an available market, mainly due to a lack of promotion.

Increased milk promotion is one answer to the dairy surplus situation, the dairymen agreed, but it will take more than that. As Calvin Mauser said, the promotion has to be backing a quality product - one that the consumer would want to purchase. Backing that promotion has to be a unified dairy industry - one that sees a need for promotion and is willing to contribute financially for the success of state and national promotion programs. A handful of dairymen cannot do the trick.

Another area where farmers, themselves, can make a difference is in the management of their own operations. Farmers need to sit down more often and push pencil and paper and pay closer attention to details, as Hughes pointed out. Operating within means and not making drastic financial changes is a policy most dairymen will need to abide during the next few years. Reducing debt loads where possible is a must, also, Don and Angie Koontz added.

Looking beyond the dairy industry problems, these dairymen express more than anything else their need to continue farming. It is a need developed by dedication, integrity and pride that acts as a driving force to conquer all problems to continue a satisfying lifestyle.

No one can overlook the problems of the dairy industry. The storm is not over and the rain will continue, but with an optimistic attitude farmers will survive, knowing that a rainbow and a pot of gold is waiting on the other side of the cloud.



IN THE LONG RUN  
July 1, 1984

Background Scripture:

1 Kings 9: 1 through 11:13.

Devotional Reading:

2 Peter 2:17-21.

Solomon was a very successful and powerful monarch -- in the short run.

His accomplishments stagger the mind. It was he who built the great temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, as well as a fine palace and a sturdy wall to protect the city. It was Solomon who was responsible for building-up the strategic cities of Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer. His army was well-trained and impressively equipped. His merchant fleet ranged throughout the ancient world, bringing him and his kingdom gold and gems that made him extremely wealthy.

THE HALF NOT TOLD

He had a world-wide reputation for both riches and wisdom and people came from far and wide to see for themselves this fabled king. One of those who came was the Queen of Sheba, who confessed to Solomon that, great as were her expectations, she had found that "the half was not told me; your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report which I heard" (1 Kings 10:7b).

Best of all, he was a man close to the Lord of Israel. On two occasions God had appeared to Solomon, commending him for his

humble commitment and promising him that the covenant which God had given his father, David, would be continued with him also. And it was the Lord who was the source of Solomon's fabled wisdom.

It is not surprising then, that the writer of 1 Kings would sum-up Solomon's reign with these words: "Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom" -- in the short run.

Yet, in the long run, all did not turn out successfully at all. The writer of 1 Kings tells us that "the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice" (11:9). Thus, God made a terrible pronouncement: "I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant" (11:11b).

EVIL IN GOD'S SIGHT

What had gone wrong? Nothing that doesn't happen to many of us when we become dazzled and blinded by our own success. Solomon took the short-run view of things and thus his success was also of limited duration. Yes, he was a great builder, but his building was dependent upon slave labor. Furthermore, he apparently believed that he was "above" the law. For, although God had warned the people of Israel to avoid marrying foreign wives, Solomon took to himself a thousand wives and concubines, many of them foreign wives whom he married to establish diplomatic alliances.

Worst of all, however, he ended up worshipping the very gods whom the Lord had warned him to keep from the people. How wise could this man have been, if he was so foolish to take the short-run view of life? Probably no wiser than you or I when we fail to take the long-run view of life.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent  
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### To Combine at the Proper Speed

We are into the barley harvest season, and in a few weeks, the winter wheat crop should be ripe. Both of these crops require mechanical harvesting equipment and good weather. From the amount of volunteer grain seen growing after barley and wheat harvests, it is evident that too much grain is being left in the

field.

I am concerned that high combine speed might be part of the reason that grain is thrown out with the straw. The manufacturer recommendations should be followed in this respect. Also, there are times when the grain may be too tough to combine. This is often the case when the crop is quite weedy. The important thing is to have the combine adjusted to the best of your knowledge and then drive at recommended speed. You'll need every bushel of grain and every bale of straw from your corp.

### To Follow Pesticide Recommendations

Weather conditions have been ideal for pests in the field, in the garden and on our flowers... so pesticides are important for their control. These pesticides are chemicals manufactured for the control of pests... such as weeds, insects, fungi and rodents. Keep in mind, if these materials are not used properly they may contaminate soil, air and water.

If pesticides are applied to areas where there is considerable run-off or soil erosion during a heavy rain... residues may move with the drainage and accumulate in streams, ponds or lakes.

The most common mistake in pesticide application is to exceed the recommended dosage. Using more chemical than prescribed will not control more pests... and usually it will not be effective for

## Farm Calendar



Saturday, June 30

Annual meeting of Pa. Red Cherry Growers Association, Stonehedge Restaurant, Gettysburg.

Tuesday, July 3

Hunterdon County, N.J., Sheep Breeders Association, 8 p.m., Extension Center.

Wednesday, July 4

Have a happy and safe Fourth of

July.

Thursday, July 5  
4-H Dairy judging, Mercer 4-H Park.

Hunterdon County, N.J. Board of

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Otis

## Last chance to submit entry — try for an Otis Original

This is your last chance to submit a postcard entry and try to win an Otis Original.

Below is the fifth and final dairy cartoon that Dave Carpenter drew especially for Lancaster Farming for June Dairy Month.

Next week, we'll be drawing five

winners from the entries received. Friday, July 6, is the deadline to receive the postcard entries at Lancaster Farming. Winners will be announced in the July 14 issue.

To enter, just jot your name, address and telephone number down on a postcard and send it to:

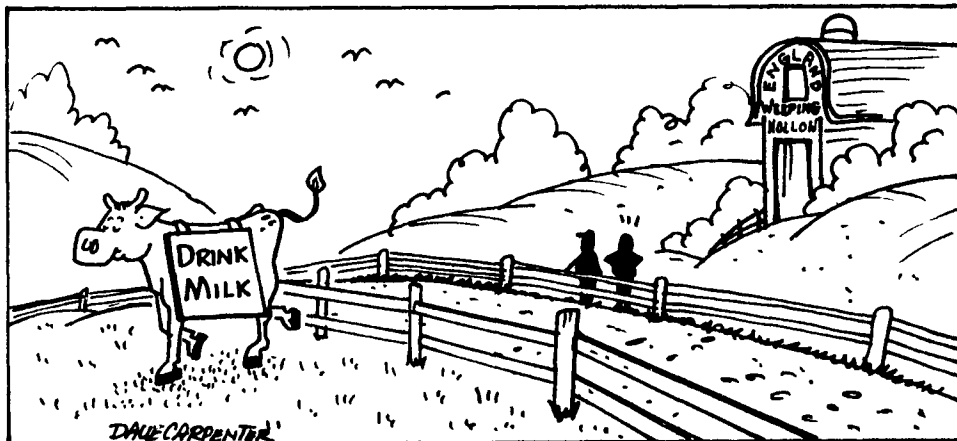
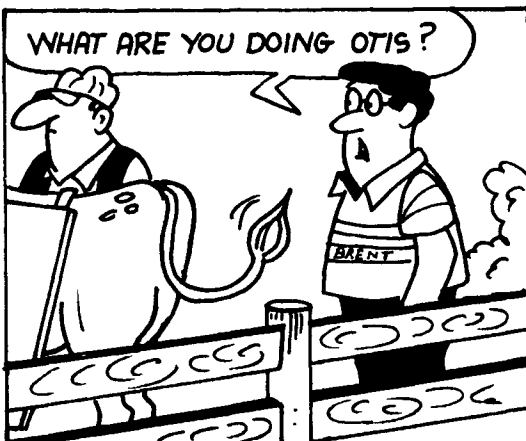
Otis Originals  
Lancaster Farming  
P.O. Box 366  
Littitz, Pa. 17543

If your name is selected in the random drawing, you'll be notified

by telephone. First name selected will have choice of the five cartoons and so on until all are picked.

But to win, get those postcards in to us by next Friday.

And from Otis and all of us -- Have a Safe and Happy July Fourth.



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