

Now is the Time

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several weeks to cure before feeding. Wheat is not used as much for feeding purposes because of the digestive problems. Smaller amounts in the ration, compared to barley, are suggested. Barley and wheat can be used as livestock feeds, but need special care when mixing in livestock rations.

To Control Canada Thistle

Canada thistles are listed as a noxious weed in Pennsylvania; this means they should be controlled and not allowed to go to seed. Too often we see what some people call "summer snowflakes" floating through the air; these are not snowflakes but thistle seeds. We should insist that these be mowed or sprayed to prevent seed formation.

Most townships have noxious weed ordinances to prevent the spread, from farm to farm, of Canada thistles and other noxious weeds. These ordinances should be enforced for the best interest of all farmers. You can spot spray with Banvel for control. Be sure to follow all label instructions. We urge everyone to do something about this problem.

To Use Caution When Shipping Hogs

Far too many hogs are fed to market weight each year only to be lost because of careless hauling during hot weather.

There are ways to prevent these losses. Whenever it's possible, haul these hogs to market early or late in the day — when it's the coolest. Avoid mid-day or early afternoon

OUR READERS WRITE

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most recent financial loss due to a dealer bankruptcy.

Leadership demonstrated by key legislators, State Representatives Carmel Sirianni and Roger A. Madigan, and State Senator Frank S. O'Connell, got the appropriation included in the budget legislation. They deserve our highest praise and a hearty thank you. The same holds true for Governor Dick Thornburgh for signing the legislation.

PFA has been falsely criticized lately from different persons in the farm community about our stand on the Scheps Cheese plant relicensing and reopening.

PFA opposed the relicensing of Scheps Cheese plant because it placed the same management in control who failed to pay \$4 to \$5 million to dairymen in the Northeast. That's similar to putting the "fox back into the chicken pen" with our blessing, had we sup-

ported that relicensing proposal.

ported that relicensing proposal. There aren't any guarantees that farmers would not suffer another financial disaster under the proposed reorganization plan. That's why we opposed it.

There were guarantees in that plan for management to receive an annual fee of \$150,000 plus five percent of any profits. On the other hand dairymen would receive a meager \$50 a month on the millions of dollars owed them. That's not enough money to even pay the interest on the monies owed farmers.

We will support any reorganization plan that assures farmers a fair chance at receiving monies owed them, and offers some secure method for farmers to be paid for future shipments to Scheps Cheese Plant. If these safeguards are overlooked as they

were in the proposed reorganization plan, we will oppose it again.

PFA has been working quietly behind the scenes to bring about workable solutions to the problems facing the dairy industry. Instead of seeking disastrous headlines for agriculture, we chose to work diligently for lasting results. It's not fun to be misrepresented in the news media and to have your integrity questioned, but the actions taken by the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board and the General Assembly have proven to be the correct route to follow.

Yes, the immediate problem was to give some financial relief to the Scheps Cheese Plant shippers. That will be done with the passage of the Pennsylvania State Budget.

Another apparent problem was the re-opening of the Scheps Cheese Plant. We will support any restart of the plant, if our dairymen are assured of payment for their milk. We are working toward that goal.

Re-opening of the plant depends on relicensing and the Penn-

sylvania Milk Marketing Board recently turned a relicensing request down because Scheps Cheese failed to meet the requirements of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Law.

One of the over-riding problems of the dairy industry is the inability of the Pennsylvania Milk Security Fund to raise enough monies to pay claims filed against it. We have corrected that situation with the passage of legislation to reform the Milk Security Fund. That legislation awaits Governor Dick Thornburgh's signature.

Agricultural organizations can not afford to act like spoiled children, hurling charges and counter-charges against each other in the news media. It's degrading and doesn't serve any good other than to those persons wishing to oppose agriculture's best interests.

I trust this letter clarifies the stand of the Pennsylvania Farmer's Association's position on the Scheps Cheese situation.

Sincerely,
Keith W. Eckel,
President

Fourth of July

(Continued from Page A1)

but with little leisure. Instead of maneuvering a speed boat across a sea of blue, it was jockeying a combine or hay baler through a sea of green or gold.

For the majority, it was likely a family cookout with plenty of time to chat or lounge.

For the minority, it might have included the hurried grab of an overdone hot dog or hamburger off a cold grill on the way from the field to the barn.

For the majority, it was the gathering of the clan for a day together.

For the minority, it was a solitary observance; each farm family has its own daily responsibilities that limit get-togethers.

For the majority, eyes may have been glued to a TV screen watching a favorite sporting event.

For the minority, it was staring at digital dashboard readouts on the combine monitor or the RPM's on the tractor tach.

For the majority, there may even have been some fireworks displays.

For the minority, the only fireworks were the kind that happen if the combine or baler breaks down halfway through a holiday harvest.

For the majority, it was a midweek break -- a respite from the daily routine.

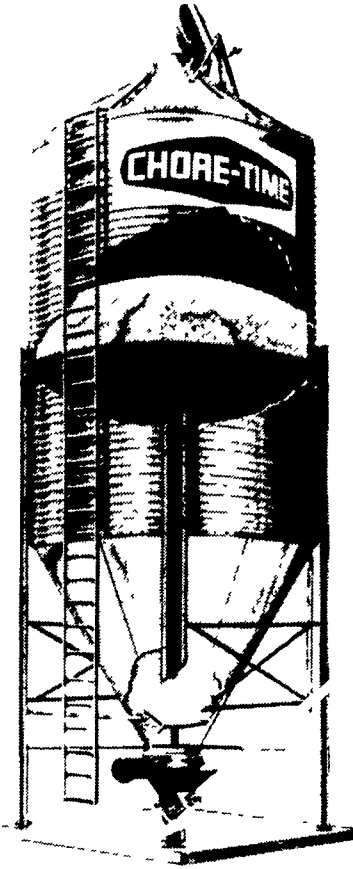
For the minority, it was another day of trying to crowd two days of work into one now that the "bunch-up season" has arrived when small grains conflict with haying, livestock conflict with vegetables and spraying conflicts with harvesting.

For the majority, it was the Fourth of July.

For the minority, it was just another July 4.

Like we said, there's quite a difference between the two.

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