

## There she stands...

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

This week there was a big fuss about Miss America, her posing, Penthouse, etc. Once again, the worth of beauty pageants was questioned by some.

The episode got me to thinking about ag's "beauty pageants" -- dairy and livestock shows. What would happen if a boisterous and bellicose bovine could rebel and lash out at the exploitation of her dairy femininity at such a show?

Her story might go something like this:

"Ever since I was rudely yanked into this world in a corner maternity pen, my sponsor directed me toward only one goal -- the banner that now rests across my back.

"Very early, I was separated from my mother and moved to my own little house to begin my pageant grooming. My quarters were kinda cramped but the southern exposure was nice. A bunch of us kids all about the same age made up this little suburban community -- our houses in a neat little line.

"We soon discovered that we had something in common -- none of us knew our fathers and some of us even shared the same one, who had died several years ago.

"Hardly weaned and on my own, I was thrust into my first pageant at about four months old. I was still finding my legs and they kept talking about learning how to walk uphill on the level. I never could understand this.

"At a time when I would rather have jumped and played I was forced to stand a certain way, with my hocks constantly prodded by this long stick. Even when nature called, someone was sticking fingers in my rump to get my back down flat again.

"That first trip away from home was a shock. The bumpy, jostling ride crowded in a truck with others all so much bigger than me was a fright and ended in temporary accommodations with no privacy at all. A steady stream of strangers kept filing by, some rudely trying to grab or touch me.

I remember that first pageant of rising to a cloud with all the primping and attention, only to come crashing back down when I was placed near the end of a string of youngsters all my age. I just wasn't prepared for such a fast letdown.

"While the judge talked glowingly about some of my competitors, I and a few others were passed over quickly with only a general reference.

"But soon I began to develop physically and the color of my ribbons began to change as my division of competition came later and later in the show.

"Judges began to pay more attention to my anatomy. I remember all too well the first time a judge touched me -- right in front of all of those people.

"After my first child the pageant schedule became even more hectic. My active motherhood ceased after that initial blessed event and I became the subject only of a medical ritual in which I donated family fulfillment to a distant relative who otherwise would likely have been an old maid. By sharing motherhood, I had more time for my career which was split between milking parlor and showing.

"Now, I stand here in the center of this ring. A small crowd of people surrounds me. Lights are flashing in my face. Someone is fussing with my feet. Another is waving frantically at me to get my ears forward.

"I can't help but wonder if it has all been worth it.

"Instead of the sawdust and tanbark, would I have become more solidly planted in life with a lush pasture beneath my feet?

"The long hours and days restricted by halter and rope made my times of carefree romping as a child few and far between.

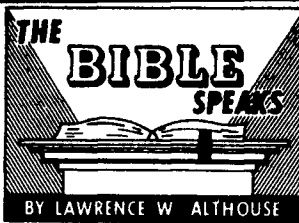
"Now, fully thrust into a career at a young age, I wonder if a more traditional role as family maker wouldn't have been more satisfying.

"Have I lost my true identity?

"Am I another symbol of a banner on the wall or a trophy on the shelf?

"If I had had the choice, is this the life I would have selected?

"Yes, Mr. Thoreau, even contented cows can lead lives of quiet desperation."



JUST BEFORE  
THE FALL  
July 29, 1984

Background Scripture:

2 Kings 14.

Devotional Reading:

Deuteronomy 24:16-22.

You know the old proverb: "Pride goeth before a fall."

While it may be true that one can "fall" without pride, still it seems abundantly clear that pride without a "fall" of some kind is rather unlikely.

Of course, the "pride" of which the sage speaks in this proverb is not a justifiable pride, but an arrogant one. It distorts our vision, clouds our reason, and prejudices our actions. That kind of "pride" almost always results in a "fall."

10,000 EDMOMITES

Amaziah, king of Judah, is a case in point. Succeeding Joash, his father, at the age of twenty-five, Amaziah was successful in rooting out and executing those who had murdered his father. Some time later, Amaziah followed with a very impressive victory over Edom in the Valley of Salt: Amaziah "killed ten thousand Edomites...and took Sela by storm." (14:7).

Flushed with victory and overconfidence, Amaziah

challenged his neighbor, King Jehoash of Israel, to do battle. Jehoash's response is interesting:

A thistle on Lebanon sent to a cedar on Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son for a wife'; and a wild beast of Lebanon passed by and trampled the thistle. You have indeed smitten Edom, and your heart has lifted you up. Be content with your glory, and stay at home; for why should you pro... 'ouble so that you fall, you and Judah with you? (14:9-10). PROVOKING TROUBLE

It was one thing to crush 10,000 Edomites, it would be something else to meet in battle the people of Israel. Why go looking for trouble, asked Jehoash?

"But Amaziah would not listen. His pride blinds him to the good advice given him by Jehoash. Thus, once again, as so many times in human history, arrogant pride was followed by a humiliating fall. Not only was Amaziah roundly defeated by Jehoash and the Israelites, but he was captured, the walls of Jerusalem broken down, and the temple treasures carried away. That which had begun so well in the Valley of Salt now came to a screeching halt on Mount Zion.

How often arrogant pride has led both people and nations into destruction! Pride -- false pride -- intoxicates us, keeps us from seeing things as they are, deluding ourselves, and acting in ways that, upon reflection too late, are clearly unwise. Because we have experienced the elation of our own Valley of Salt, we lose our perspective and blunder on into situations that can only lead us to fall in humiliating defeat.

Just before the "fall," almost always there is pride.

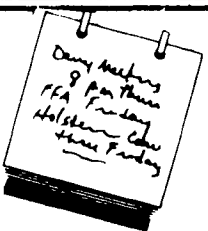
## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent  
Phone 717 394 6851



## Farm Calendar



Saturday, July 28

Private Landowner Conference, Pa. Forestry Association, Pocono Hershey Resort, White Haven.  
Pa. Ayrshire Breeders Field Day, Lewis Thomas Valley Furnace Farm, Ligonies.  
Delaware Holstein Sale, 6-10 p.m., Delaware Fairgrounds, Harrington.  
Rutgers Vegetable-Flower Open House, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Ryder's Lane, New Brunswick, N.J.

Sunday, July 29

International Corn Conference, Indianapolis, Ind.; continues through Wednesday.

Monday, July 30

Morrison Cove Dairy Show, Martinsburg, opens; continues through Friday.  
Clearfield County Fair opens; continues through Saturday.  
Goshen Country Fair opens, continues through Saturday.  
Mercer County Pomona opens; continues through Saturday.

Tuesday, July 31

Farmers'-Businessmen's Picnic, 5:30 p.m. at Leon's Sod Farm, Hunterdon County, N.J.  
Jacktown Fair, Wind Ridge, opens; continues through Saturday.  
Stanton Community Fair, New Stanton, opens; continues through Saturday.

August 1

University of Delaware Ag Export  
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### To Make Summer Alfalfa Seeding

Late July and early August are good times to seed alfalfa, particularly in this part of the state. When seeded during this period of high soil moisture, the plants have time to become established before freezing weather arrives. Alfalfa is still one of our major forage crops and deserves the very best of planning and management. Band seeding is the best method to make this seeding.

Weed control is a "must" with a straight seeding without a nurse crop. Many stands are injured by poor weed control during the first year. Refer to the 1983-84 Agronomy Guide for assistance on weed control practices. Be aware that alfalfa should not be planted in ground that has been treated for corn weed control during the past year, especially fields sprayed with atrazine. Alfalfa is an excellent forage crop; however, it does require attention and good management.

### To Prepare The Silo

The corn crop is developing rapidly and soon it will be silo filling time. The condition of the silo should receive some attention before the new corn crop is ensiled. Many of the concrete silos may be pitted and have a rough inside surface. This will allow air pockets and cause moldy silage. Some inside joints may need to be repointed in order to keep out the air and have a smooth surface.

Don't wait until the silo filler is coming before you make these repairs.

Silage is one of the best and most economical feeds on our farms today; let's not spoil it after it is in the silo.

### To Check Pets For Fleas

Warm moist weather favors the development of fleas and you will find them jumping right now. First of all treat the dogs and cats with commercial flea powders. Flea collars appear to do a good job against fleas but check the pet frequently because the skin of some animals becomes irritated by the material in the collar. For indoors, treat infested areas with ant and roach aerosols. Do not overlook the bedding of pets or their sleeping quarters. Sevin also does an effective job in this area.

Because fleas often infest lawns in the summer, treat the grass with sprays or dusts containing either Sevin or Diazinon. Apply these sprays according to the directions of the container.

To Fertilizer Strawberry Plants  
Most strawberry growers have

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## Otis

