



# OPINION

## Now it's lite beef

Next time you walk into a restaurant and ask for a "lite" you may not necessarily get a beer or a cigarette. You may get an eight ounce strip-loin beef steak. That's what Swift Company calls their new cut of meat made available to the food industry about three months ago. Company spokesmen say this steak caters to young people who are health diet conscious and is available nationwide. Taken from lean ungraded (no roll) carcasses that are aged 21 days, the steaks are then trimmed down further so that the final product has 33% less fat and 25% fewer calories.

So far the jury is still out on the public's acceptance of the lite beef

steaks. One major hotel chain now carries the product on their menu. The banquet staff has been instructed of the new food, and information flyers have been placed on the restaurant tables. But so far the response has not been overwhelmingly favorable. People have ordered the steaks but some don't think it has as good a flavor as a regular steak.

Maybe the public just needs to develop their taste for the lite beef. Or maybe it's just a matter of education. But at least we have another creative way to market farmer-produced food and everyone involved in this kind of creativity should be congratulated for their efforts.

## When farmers speak

The word passed around Capital Hill in Harrisburg Tuesday claims that the Pennsylvania Farmers Association presents one of the strongest legislative voices in Pennsylvania. You might say when PFA speaks congress listens.

Of course, PFA has a very professional and efficient legislative and public relations staff. They do their job superbly. But the real strength of their voice comes from the individual farm members from every county in the state. These farmers leave their plowing, planting, feeding, and milking for a day and become informed of the issues that will

effect their business and family life as farmers. They put on their Sunday clothes even though it's Tuesday (that probably only happens once a year about this time) and go personally to the offices of members of the state house and senate.

While their stand on issues is pro farmer, we've noticed that often their views reflect a concern not only for themselves but also for city and urban people as well. Our applause goes to the men and women of PFA who took the farm message to the state government with the proper mix of strength and empathy. We call it a job well done.

## Farm Calendar



**Saturday, April 26**  
 A-Day, Delaware Valley College, Doylestown; continues tomorrow.  
 Maple Festival, Troy Fairgrounds, 8 a.m.; continues tomorrow.  
 15th annual Wayne County calf and bred heifer sale, noon.  
 York County Sheep and Wool Festival, York Fairgrounds.  
 'Top of the Class' market lamb sale, Manheim Fairgrounds, 1 p.m.  
 Chester-Delaware Pomona Grange 3 annual legislative dinner, Cochranville Fire Company, 6:30 p.m.

**Monday, April 28**  
 Berks County 4-H Beef Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., Berks County Ag Center.

**Tuesday, April 29**  
 York County Farmland Tax Reassessment Meeting, Eastern High School Auditorium, R2 Cool Creek Road, Wrightsville, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 30**  
 York County Farmland Tax Reassessment Meeting, Southern Middle School Auditorium, Glen Rock, 7:30 p.m.  
 Hans Herr FFA banquet, 7 p.m., Willow Street Vo-Tech School.

**Friday, May 2**  
 Delaware Food Festival, Wilmington Hilton, I-95 and Naamans Road, Wilmington, 8:30 a.m. to noon.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
 Lancaster County Agriculture Agent



**To Prepare For Corn Planting**  
 It always seems like we are in the full swing of the spring rush by the time daylight savings time arrives. Well, this year is no exception. We are fast approaching corn planting time and if your planter is not "ready to go" then put this high on your list for jobs that must be done.

If you plan to change the row width, be sure to calibrate your planter to the plant population you desire. This should be done well ahead of time — so if you need new plates — they can be picked up and installed. Also your pest control programs should be worked out.

If you are on a no-till program and have a cover crop of rye, wheat or barley, then it should be sprayed when the vegetation is 18 to 24 inches tall. Paraquat plus a surfactant does an excellent job.

As far as insect control goes, research data collected from

numerous sites over the past several years indicates that soil insecticide treatments for corn rootworm control have not significantly increased yields except in a small percentage of the fields. If rootworm was not a problem in the past, treatment will not be necessary. If the field was in anything but corn last year, there would not be a rootworm problem because they survive only on corn roots.

**To Condition Cows For Summer**  
 All cows and breeding-age heifers should be vaccinated for Lepto at least once a year, and spring is a good time to do this. Deworm heifers three to six weeks after being turned out to pasture.

The second worming, three weeks after the first, is crucial to success; it, along with keeping unwormed cattle out of the pasture, can greatly reduce the worm count of the pasture. An alternative to double worming is the use of sustained-release boluses.

If pink eye has been a problem, consider vaccinating for it, and control face flies to help prevent its spread. Keep cattle out of wet areas to prevent mastitis and foot problems. If necessary, use foot baths as an additional preventative measure.

**To Evaluate Sewage Sludge Before Using**

Many farmers are being approached to have sewage sludge applied to their land. Several things must be evaluated before considering this step. First of all, many of our farms are presently

producing more animal and poultry manure than they have land to apply it on, so we just don't have the acreage.

You should also be aware of potential pitfalls in sewage sludge. Sludge is a by-product of wastewater treatment and can contain many different elements and compounds from municipal and industrial sources. The wastewater goes through several stages of treatment, but the sludge that is removed from the effluent may contain heavy metals and trace elements such as copper, zinc, lead, nickel, chromium or cadmium. These elements can be toxic to plants at low levels and some represent a hazard to the food chain.

To avoid heavy metal or other problems, sludges must be analyzed to determine their suitability. Ideally, your soil should also be tested. Sludge and soil testing is absolutely essential for the safe and beneficial use of sewage sludge on cropland. Costs of analyses are usually paid by the municipality involved.

**To Think Rye**

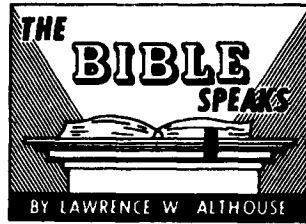
Many farmers plant rye as a forage crop for their cattle. Rye can provide a lot of much needed high quality forage — if it is handled properly. For top quality feed value, rye should be cut around the boot stage of maturity, and wilted before ensiling. After this stage, feed value drops rapidly. Some of our rye fields will be heading out soon. That means we should be thinking about cutting rye, perhaps even before we start planting corn.

**Saturday, May 3**  
 Apple Blossom Festival, Gettysburg; continues tomorrow.  
 Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, West Friendship, Md.; continues tomorrow.  
 Berks County dairy princess pageant, Berks Ag Center, 7 p.m.  
 'Sale of Star Performers,' Pa. Polled Hereford Association, Bradford Fairgrounds. Show, 9:30 a.m.; sale, 1 p.m.  
 Goodville Fire Company Spring Ham Supper, 3 to 7 p.m., Goodville Fire Company, Rt. 23 between Blue Ball and Morgantown.

**Monday, May 5**  
 Accounting and Auditing Conference, Penn State University, sponsored by Pa. Society of Public Accountants; continues through Wednesday. Contact your local Extension office.  
 York County Farmland Tax Reassessment meeting, Southeastern High School Auditorium, 200 Bowman Road, Hanover, 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 6**  
 Berks County Sheep Club program, 6 p.m.  
 York County Farmland Tax Reassessment meeting, Dover Area Intermediate School Auditorium, 4500 Intermediate Ave., Dover, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 7**  
 Lancaster Conservation District Board Meeting  
 York County Fruit Spray meeting, Earl Brown Orchards, Loganville.



WHERE THE DEVIL IS...  
 April 27, 1986

Background Scripture: Luke 3:15-22; 4:1-30.

Devotional Reading: Luke 4:1-13.

I cannot tell you how many times I've read the account of Jesus' temptation as recorded in Luke 4 (as well as Mark 1 and Matthew 4). But it is a passage with which I am quite familiar and whose meaning I assumed I fully grasped (always a dangerous assumption!). Yet, as I reread it today in preparation for writing this piece, it suddenly dawned on me that there was something in this passage that previously had escaped me.

Like many others, I have always labeled this passage, Luke 4:1-15, as "the Mount of Temptation," the account of Jesus' victorious encounter with the Devil as Tempter. Furthermore, I've always identified with Jesus' experience with the Tempter because temptation is one of the most common of human experiences. I am tempted. Everyone is tempted. Jesus was tempted. And because he was able to win over the Tempter, so you and I can apply his response to our own situations.

### SPIRIT LED

Still, the Mount of Temptation has always carried an ominous, fearful connotation. True, Jesus was victorious over the Tempter, but then he was Jesus and I am me. And I cannot help wondering whether the gulf between being me and being him is not too great to allow me confidence in approaching my own Mount of Temptation and the Tempter who waits for me there.

Yet, today I discovered that the Mount of Temptation does not belong to the Devil. To be sure, he is there, always, but so is the Holy Spirit! How could I have previously seen only the Tempter in this encounter? Luke clearly reveals the presence of the Tempter's adversary: "And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit for 40 days in the wilderness tempted by the devil" (4:1). Jesus encountered the devil in the wilderness, but he entered that experience "full of the Holy Spirit" and was "led by the Spirit." And when it was all over, Jesus "returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee..." (4:14). In Jesus' experience, where there was the devil, there was even more the power of the Holy Spirit.

### AND OPPORTUNE TIME

And what about our Mounts of Temptation? If, when we approach them, we see only the Tempter lurking there to test us, then the battle may be over for us before it has even begun. After all, who can contend against the power of the devil? We are mere mortals! And the Mount of Temptation is the devil's home ground!

But is it really? The experience of Jesus indicates that the Mount of Temptation is the home field of the Holy Spirit and it is the devil who is the interloper. When we are emptied, then, let us look not to the Tempter, but to the Holy Spirit who can lead us, as he did Jesus, safely through this experience and bring us out on the other side "in the power of the Spirit" for whatever Galilees await us.

For, where the devil is, there even more is the Holy Spirit who can victoriously empower us as he did Jesus.

