



# OPINION

## National Press exposed to Dairy Farms

A group of Washington D.C. press correspondents and television crews were introduced to farm life this week when they were escorted through two Chester county dairy barns. One a free stall operation on Hopeland Farm and the other a tie stall barn on the New Bolton Center Research Farm.

Even U.S. Congressman E. "Kika" de la Garza, Chairman of House Committee On Agriculture got in on the act by milking a holstein cow from the research farm herd for the benefit of the national press. The occasion was the press conference on location called by the School Of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, at Kennett Square to publicize the research findings to date on bovine somatotropine. The

research funded by the veterinary school and American Syanamid Company is progressing into the second lactation of the cows in the testing program.

These reporters spent five hours writing shorthand notes, filming and recording the responses of professors, farmers, and company personnel in the dairy barns and on the lawn of the Allam House at New Bolton Center.

When these reporters returned to Washington later Monday afternoon, they went with a sample of local cheeses and mushrooms and a little manure on their shoes. But the hospitality of the sponsoring groups could be expected to show up favorably in the national reports about the farmer and the new biotechnology.

## Until then, an extra bale of alfalfa

Now that we've had a chance to calm down from the initial shock of the first published reports that somatotropin was going to increase milk surpluses by 40 percent and put half of the family farmers out of business, maybe we can make a more rational judgement. And maybe we can prepare ourselves for this new biotechnology when it becomes available for on-farm use.

Dr. William Chapula at the school of veterinary medicine, University of Pennsylvania, says that 1989 is the earliest possible time the product can be completely tested and approved by the Food and Drug Administration. That means any dairy farms, large or small, that go out of business over the next three to four years will do so for reasons other than somatotropin.

In addition, a more practical estimation of the increased production that will result from the on-farm use of somatotropin would be 10 to 20 percent according to Dr. Chapula. That means that at the average of 15 percent a cow milking 60 pounds per day would with proper management be ex-

pected to milk 69 pounds.

To administer somatotropin in the form presently proposed for on farm use each dairy cow must be injected with the product each day. That would make the smaller, well-managed family farm better able to utilize the new technology than a large herd owner. The small family farm with a tie stall operation may actually be preserved because the product can give him a new competitive, cost-effective tool to reduce his production costs.

So with these new facts it looks like we need to find something other than somatotropin to blame for our dairy industry problems, at least for three or four more years. In addition, family farms will have at least an equal chance with corporate farms to survive in the age of biotechnology.

And in the meantime if you need an extra 10 to 20 percent increase in milk production until the proposed protein-based somatotropin is available, give your top-producing cows an extra bale of very excellent quality naturally protein-enriched alfalfa hay each day. That should do it.

## Farm Calendar



### Saturday, June 14

- Adams Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Biglerville High School, 8 p.m.
- Beaver-Lawrence Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Laurel High School Cafeteria, New Castle, 8 p.m.
- Erie Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Cass Farm, Wattsville

- Franklin Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Kauffman's Community Center, Chambersburg
- Lebanon Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Annville Elementary School, Annville.
- Big Weekend Dairy Goat Show and Annual Meeting Pa. Dairy Goat Assoc., Huntingdon Fairgrounds, contact Jane Smeltzer, 814-359-2073.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Encourage Water Consumption

In the managing of any type of livestock or poultry it is very important to obtain maximum water consumption. Some animals, such as a heavily producing milk cow, will drink 30 gallons of water per day. All animals should have free access to water at all times. In the summer the water should be as cool as possible, and in the winter warmed water will increase consumption. Open troughs might be covered unless the water is flowing through the trough.

One way to encourage good water intake is to provide access to loose salt and minerals. These

items will not only help water consumption but will balance the ration and help promote more complete digestibility. During warm humid weather, we humans drink more liquids. Livestock and poultry will do the same when given the chance. This is good management and will increase efficiency in production.

### To Keep Pesticide Records

Today's battle with insects, fungus, rodents and weeds requires the use of many different chemicals. It is important to keep an accurate record of any chemical used. This would include the date, name of material, application rate, field number and even the direction the wind is blowing. This might save a lot of trouble and loss of income in case there is some question.

Many food items are being checked by Food and Drug representatives for pesticide residues. It is possible to find residues even where the producer followed regulations and every recommended practice. Your records would be very important in these cases. In any event, always follow label instructions.

### To Practice Good Sanitation

The prevention and control of various diseases starts with a good sanitation program. This is also true in the reduction of serious fly

problems. We are experiencing a fly build-up in some areas. Here again, the place to start is to clean up the premises and eliminate all breeding places. This practice along with the use of approved insecticides should keep flies to a minimum.

Residual wall sprays, fly baits, space sprays and larvacides can be used to reduce the fly problem.

### To Feed Shrubs After Flowering Period

Most people know that their plants do better if they're fertilized, but many ask when is the best time to feed shrubs. One important thing to remember is that shrubs need feeding immediately following their flowering period.

For small shrubs, use one-half a handful of a complete fertilizer such as a 5-10-10 or similar analysis. The fertilizer should be placed on the surface of the soil around the plants and lightly raked in.

After you've applied the plant food to the soil, it should be soaked in with rain or a healthy watering. Large plants, of course, may be given a larger amount of plant food.

Once a plant is firmly and fully established, and in good growing condition, then it may not need regular fertilizer application.

### Sunday, June 15

Dairy Farm Open House, Charles Rogers Farm, Everitt's Rd., east of Rt. 202/31, Raritan Twp. Open to public 1-5 p.m.

Annual Convention, Pa. Grocers Assoc., Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, contact John McNelis, 215-884-6006.

Annual Convention, Pa. Food Merchants Assoc., Valley Forge Convention Ctr., contact Dave McCorkle, 717-234-6031.

Jefferson Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Edgewood Dairy, Brookville.

### Monday, June 16

NIR Van, Gettysburg Shopping Center, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. vo-ag shop.

Penn Ag Tax Forum, General Sutter Inn, Lititz, 10 a.m., contact David Brubaker, 733-2238.

### Tuesday, June 17

FFA 60th Annual Mtg., Penn State University, thru June 19, contact, Charles Lebo, 717-783-6965.

Sullivan Co. Wool Pool, Dushore, 7:30-11.

4-H Demonstration Night, Huntingdon Area Middle School, 7 p.m.

Huntingdon Co. Ag Forum, Big Wrangler, 7 p.m.

### Wednesday, June 18

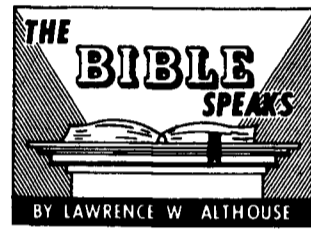
Elk Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Royal Motel, Ridgeway.

### Thursday, June 19

Mercer Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Mercer Extension Center, Mercer.

Bedford Co. Maple Syrup Producers Directors Mtg., Extension Office

Huntingdon Co. Fair Directors Mtg., County Fairgrounds office, 8 p.m.



## A LITTLE HABIT

June 15, 1986

Background Scripture: Jeremiah 7: 1-15; 26.

Devotional Reading: Jeremiah 26: 1-16.

As a minister I was always confronted with two seemingly contradictory tasks: (1) to persuade people that regular worship

### Friday, June 20

Bedford Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, North Bedford High School, Loysburg.

Cumberland Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Embers Convention Center, Carlisle.

Lycoming Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Lycoming Mall, Muncy.

Perry Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Newport Fairgrounds, Newport.

Pa. Forestry Assoc., Regional Dinner, Quality Inn, Williamsport, contact, Robert Clark, 717-766-5371.

### Saturday, June 21

Arts on the Square, Elizabethtown, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

York Co. Farmers Assoc. Annual Farm Tour. Headquarters, Andersons Butcher Shop, Wellsville Rd.

Lancaster Co. Dairy Princess Pageant, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.

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is a vital part of Christian discipleship, and (2) that it is not the most vital part.

It is a very human tendency for ministers and congregations to work on proposition #1 to the exclusion of #2. If we can persuade people to come to our church, we count ourselves successful. The more people who come and the more often they come, the better. I once had a District Superintendent who seemed utterly content if our Sunday worship statistics kept advancing at a steady pace. What happened as a result of all that church attendance didn't seem to concern him at all. If I had had to tell him that church attendance had dropped off because some people took exception to what I preached, he would have been most distressed - and so, probably, would I.

### THE TEMPLE!

The problem arises when our worship doesn't have any positive effect upon the way we live our lives. The problem, of course, is not with worship but the worshiper. This was the essence of Jeremiah's sermon in the temple. The people of Israel assumed all was well because people were coming to the temple regularly for worship. The priests were happy with the crowds and the people were confident that all was well. Everyone was satisfied - except Jeremiah.

"Do not trust in these deceptive words," said Jeremiah. "This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord" (7:4). Their trust was not to reside with a building, but with the vital relationship they were to experience there.

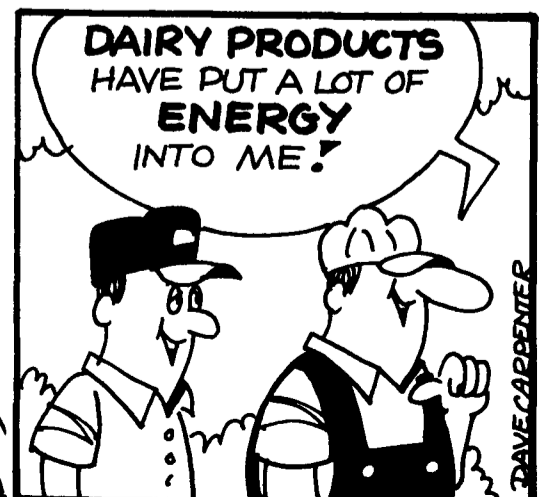
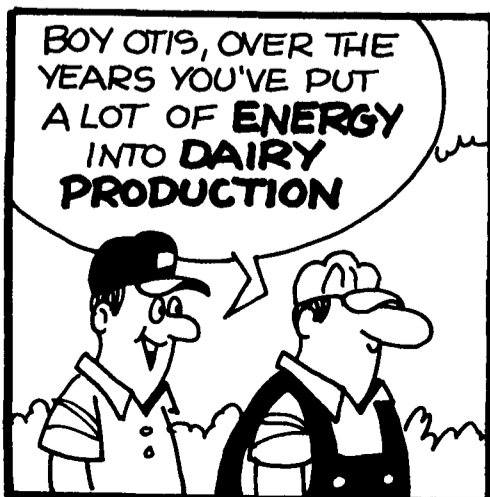
### DECEPTIVE WORDS

For all their temple worship the people of Israel were living in ways that displeased God. "Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail," preached Jerusalem. "Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known?" (7:8,9). If our worship is worth anything at all it will produce the kind of living that God wants so much more than ritual and even faithful attendance in the temple.

There's a bit of doggerel I remember:

They're praising God on Sunday,  
But they'll be all right on Monday,  
It's just a little habit they've acquired.

Habitual worship of God is vital to our spiritual condition, but it's got to be more than a meaningless little habit we've acquired.



DAVE CARPENTER