



# OPINION

## A Pet, Not A Monster

Children often say things on the spur of the moment that give a lot of insight into what adults think but don't always say. That happened last Saturday night at the dairy promotion program at the Buck Tractor Pull.

After we got the cooperation of two boys from town to hug a calf for the photographer, one of the boys said he wished he could take the calf home. Boys with calves always induce a bit of emotional subjectivity. And we really felt good when one of these "town" boys wanted to take the calf along home.

"What would you do with a calf if you could take her along home," we asked. "I'd scare people with her," he said. That statement dampened our good feelings rather quickly. Farm boys would know you couldn't scare anybody with an innocent calf. But maybe the town boy had expressed underlying

problems with farm-urban communication—fear of animals, fear of farm machinery, fear of pollution, fear of cholesterol.

Often the unfamiliar seems scary. So maybe the first step to promote agriculture would be to get those town people familiar with farming. Ag in the classroom. Ag in the shopping malls. Farm-city-week celebrations. Shared holidays. Just as the automobile plants open their factories to public tours so we as farmers must do everything we can as individual families and as farm organizations to familiarize as many people as possible with our every day life.

And we can't just do it once. We must be forever developing relationships with those not familiar with farming. We must develop those relations until every boy and girl in our society would be comfortable to take home a calf for a pet, not a monster.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

**To Feed Dry Matter on Pasture**  
Pastures are growing well again due to a couple of good showers. This means that livestock can utilize some dry matter while on pasture. This can include hay, straw or silage. With the dry matter present, they will consume a moderate amount along with the fresh grass.

The dry matter slows down the passage of the lush forage through the digestive system. Also, it reduces the danger of bloating when there is clover or alfalfa in the forage mixture. If the animals are out all of the time, then a portable hay rack would be the way to feed hay or straw. Dry matter intake is important when pastures are lush and high in water content.

**To Be Aware of New Progesterone Test**

New cowside progesterone test kits are now available for helping

farmers improve the reproductive performance of their dairy herds.

One of the most important uses of cowside progesterone tests is to verify the heat status of cows, particularly those that have weak or questionable signs of estrus.

In the hands of an experienced and knowledgeable user the test can also help to confirm pregnancy. But, other ovarian dysfunctions may lead one to erroneously conclude that a cow is pregnant.

These new progesterone test kits should be viewed as one more useful tool available to farmers, according to Glenn Shirk, Extension dairy agent. They do not replace the need for skilled observation of animals, good management, and the services of a well-trained veterinarian.

**To Check Lighting For Layers**

One of the cardinal rules for poultry management is to never decrease the light period of flocks in production. Most flock managers would never intentionally decrease the day length to a flock in production but we are in the season of the year when this can happen accidentally.

Most layers are in light-controlled not light-tight housing. The major sources of light leakage are the exhaust fans and air intake. Pullet flocks placed in the laying house during late fall, winter or spring can be given a 14-hour day. As summer approaches and natural day length exceeds 14 hours, layers in non-light-tight housing will be exposed to an increasing day length due to the light

entering the building through fans and air intakes. This increase in day length causes no problem. The longest day occurs on June 21 and decreases until December 21. It is this decrease in day length that can cause layers to go out of production unless the time clocks controlling the lights are readjusted to provide the layers with the day length they received on June 21.

The two points to remember are: 1) never subject layers to a decrease in day length and 2) unless time clocks are readjusted on June 21, the layers in non-light-tight houses could be exposed to an unintentional decrease in day length.

**To Use The Agronomy Guide**

The 1985-86 Agronomy Guide published by our Extension Service at Penn State is one of the very best handbooks for all farmers. This Guide has been published for years and is updated every two years.

Copies are available at any Extension Office in Pennsylvania for a cost of only \$4. We urge farmers to purchase a copy and use it. I am concerned that many farmers who have them are not using them. Answers to numerous phone calls asking about crop practices can be found in the Agronomy Guide. I suggest that each farmer index the crops being grown with tabs so the information can be found more rapidly.

On one of these rainy days become more familiar with the contents of this Guide. It is very useful and contains dependable and researched information.

## Farm Calendar



### Saturday, June 21

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

York County Farmer's Association annual farm tour, Headquarters, Anderson's Butcher Shop on Wellsville Road.

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

Sullivan County Dairy Princess Pageant, 7:30 p.m., DuShore Main Street.

SUN Area Dairy Princess Pageant, Boscov's Susquehanna Valley Mall, Hummelswarf.

State Brown Swiss Picnic at Dean and Brenda Daubert's Farm, Bernville.

Washington-Greene County Dairy Princess Pageant, Washington Fairgrounds, Washington.

### Sunday, June 22

Ephrata Young Farmers Picnic, Ephrata Community Park, 12:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting, Berwick Vegetable Cooperative, Berwick; contact Angel Venditti at 717-752-2062.

### Monday, June 23

4-H Leadership Congress, Penn State University; continues through June 26.

Woodlot Management program, N. Hunterdon High School, 8 p.m. Call 788-1405.

### Tuesday, June 24

Delegates meeting, Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative Association, Syracuse; call 315-446-0730.

Escheats Sale, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 717-896-4641.

Tri-County (Lebanon, Schuylkill, Dauphin) Beekeeper's Association Meeting, Keeney-Zeigler Apiaries, Bethel, 6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, June 25

Pa. Fruitgrowers' Summer Tour; continues through June 26. Call Dwight Mickey, 717-263-2195.

Summer Tour, State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania, Franklin County; contact Patti Leves at 717-428-2070.

Hunterdon County, N.J., Twilight Grape Meeting, Alba Vineyards, Finesville, 6:30 p.m. Call 475-8000 Ext. 657 for details.

### Thursday, June 26

Annual Crops Day, Penn State, Rock Springs Ag Research Center. For information call 814-865-2543.

Adams County Twilight Meeting, 7 p.m. at Zepp-Dale Farms.

### Friday, June 27

Warren County Dairy Princess Pageant, 4-H Building, Pittsfield.

### Saturday, June 28

Crawford County Dairy Princess Pageant, Raymond Anthony Farm, Meadville.

Berks County Wool Pool, Reading Fair Livestock Building, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Pennsylvania Mountain Dairy Goat Association Meeting, 1

p.m., Grace Episcopal Church, Honesdale.

Kutztown Folk Festival; continues through July 6.

### Sunday, June 29

Governer's School of Agriculture, Penn State University; continues through Aug. 2.

Pa. Shorthorn Field Day, Richard Peoples Farm, Volant.

Pa. Greenhouse and Allied Industries Conference, Penn State University; continues through July 1.

### Monday, June 30

Grain Meeting, Penn Ag Industries Association, Conestoga Resort, Lancaster; call Dr. David Brubaker at 717-733-2238.

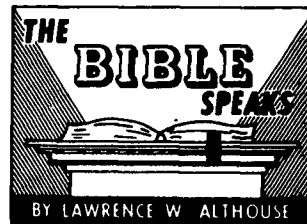
### Wednesday, July 2

Lancaster Conservation District Board Meeting.

NW Pa. Regional 4-H Dairy Overnighter, Mercer County park.

### Saturday, July 5

Hickory Ridge Antique Farm Show, Horace Potter residence, Route 113 Milford, Del.; continues through July 6. For information call 302-422-9308.



## ON BURNING THE SCROLLS

June 22, 1986

Background Scripture: Jeremiah 23:9-40; 27 through 28.

Devotional Reading: Jeremiah 23:33-40.

The story of Jeremiah and Hananiah could be approached on a very simple level: it's a story of the "good guy" vs. the "bad guy" — Jeremiah's the "good guy" and Hananiah is the "bad" one. So we praise Jeremiah and condemn Hananiah.

But it's not really as simple as all that. From our safe vantage point in time, it is easy for us to know that Jeremiah was God's prophet and Hananiah was not. But, if we had been their contemporaries, would we have seen it all so clearly?

## PHOPHECY "PEACE"!

Let's look at the choice which confronted the people. On the one hand, there was Jeremiah who prophesied calamity for his people at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonians. On the other hand, there is Hananiah, who prophesies, not war but peace. How can you tell which of these two men has the direct pipeline to God? Doesn't it make sense to go with the positive, upbeat message of Hananiah instead of the negative, gloomy prophecy of Jeremiah? If these two men were to come into your church today, wouldn't you be more likely to cast your lot with Hananiah?

And isn't this the problem we always have in the church? How can we know just who is speaking for God, particularly when there seems to be such disagreement over what God wants from us. Everyone wants to be on the side of truth, but who's got it?

Is there, then, no way for us to make such a determination? I think there may be.

## TRUSTING A LIE

The key, I think, may be in Jeremiah's concluding statement to Hananiah: "... you have made this people trust in a lie." And the lie in which Hananiah persuaded the people to trust was that they could have peace without righteousness. By persuading them that peace would be theirs, he lifted from them the necessity to change the way they were living. Prophecy wasn't a guessing game to see who could rightly predict what God was going to do. It was a matter of convincing people that unrighteous living was going to bring unhappy results.

Did Hananiah know that he was persuading the people to "trust in a lie," or was he convinced that he was telling the truth? The false prophet does not have to intentionally deceive us. He has only to be wrong. But it makes his message no more true simply because he is convinced it is from God.

Apart from waiting until we can see which prophecy is correct, there is only one way to discern the truth of God: that which is true always asks the highest and best from us — nothing less.

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