

The Dairy Business

By
Newton Bair



When Is Tomorrow?

Some say it never comes. If it finally does arrive, we call it today and then a crazy thing happens — another mythical day fills the slot that was hoped for yesterday. The only way to describe tomorrow is the day I yearned for yesterday. Or perhaps hoped that it would never come or would at least be late.

It's a funny word, tomorrow. A hit song in the musical comedy "Annie," a major theme of numerous poems, and the ultimate target of today's worries. The young can't wait for it to come, and

the old fear its arrival. Somewhere in between the most of us are betting too heavily on, if not a winner, at least a better one than today.

A day to put things off until, as I so often do. Like writing a weekly column or answering letters or paying bills. Today is never a good one to do those things. The one just past was already too full, and the one after that is already pledged to the hilt, so I'll wait until the due date. It's funny how soon that one comes, and how much work can be

stacked under a deadline.

All problems will be solved, all wrongs righted, and all postponed tasks completed, or well in hand. In case I forgot to mention it, the rain we need, or the sunshine and dry wind if you happen to have hay laying, will arrive TOMORROW. So will the check for the culls sent to the packer. The price of milk could go up, if the day doesn't get cancelled by an act of Congress, or an overkill in the Minnesota-Wisconsin surplus. Keep the faith baby, and keep hoping.

Lots of things will happen tomorrow, and most of it will be of benefit to someone, especially someone who is prepared for whatever comes. Most of it hinges on hope, and some on faith. But much of what happens tomorrow will happen because someone pulled the right strings. Doors don't open unless someone pulls the latch.

Tomorrow can come and go, again and again, with a lot of doors unopened because the hand held only faith or hope, with no grip left to pull the string or lift the latch.

Farm folk just naturally have a lot of faith and tons of hope, otherwise hardly anybody would be in the business. But how much power is still left in the old grip?

The strings to be pulled might be a little testy or even somewhat rotten, but there are some good, sound ones, connected to our representatives in Harrisburg or Washington. Instead of just moaning about what goes on, start pulling and let them know what you think. You may be the one with an idea that will shape the future of the country, or the world.

No, the cows won't wait until tomorrow to be milked. Nor will anything of a timely nature. If the note at the bank is due today, tomorrow is too late, unless something is done today to forestall foreclosure. Just as we

expect dinner to be on time, and not postponed until the cook is moved to put on the frying pan. Some things just can't wait until tomorrow. Even some of the doors within today's reach may disappear completely before tomorrow comes.

Somebody, somewhere, still finds farming either profitable or desirable enough to continue producing. A few will always find it so, and the world will always be fed. Who will be those chosen few? Maybe they will be the ones who either pull the right strings, or unlatch the correct doors. Today, not tomorrow.

PAFC Annual Meeting Planned

HARRISBURG — Dr. Ron Knutson, professor and extension economist in agricultural policy and marketing at Texas A&M University, is slated to keynote the 1986 annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives on Tuesday, October 7, according to PAFC vice president and annual meeting chairman Robert M. Dever.

Knutson, known for his candid analysis of problems and his frank evaluation of their implications for

farmers, cooperatives, policymakers and other agribusinessmen, is scheduled to speak Tuesday afternoon at the Association's annual seminar, Dever said.

The annual meeting, set October 7-8, at Harrisburg's Sheraton West, also features William Perry, public affairs specialist for Milk Marketing Inc., who will deliver remarks at the annual banquet Tuesday evening.

The Association's third annual Cooperative Month kick-off is set for breakfast on Wednesday, October 8. The affair, with members of the state legislature as Association guests, is followed by the annual business session.

For registration information, contact Kathy Gill or Cindy Goodling at 717-232-PAFC or write PAFC, PO Box 12107, Harrisburg, PA 17108-2107.

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