

The Dairy Business

By Newton Bair

Feeding The World, Malthus In Reverse

Thomas Malthus might have had a good idea back in 1796 when he published his famous theory of population growth. "Population tends to increase faster than the supply of goods necessary for existence," he said. It seemed to work for England and most of the known world of that time, and still applies to some parts of the world like China and India and Ethiopia even today. But Malthus didn't know anything about plant and animal genetics, or chemical fertilizers.

The American Continent was still largely an unknown quantity, and the American farmer was still cutting his milk teeth. I wonder what he would think if he were reincarnated today, in Lancaster County?

A few years back, when all the political stops were pulled out and we were going to feed the hungry world, the Malthusian Theory was something to be laughed at. When the price is right, food supplies can be increased, industry can be financed, and prosperity will continue on a fast roll.

The problem is, we Americans, who were the inspiration for the whole world in producing all kinds and abundance of goods, forgot that others also wanted to get in on the gravy. They found that they could borrow our technology, and

also the money to make it work for them. It only took a few years to literally flood the world with food and all kinds of consumer goodies.

There are always two or three suppliers for every consumer. So prices plummet well below the cost of production. The Third world that borrowed our technology and the money to finance it is now selling instead of buying, while those that still can't produce food can't afford to pay for it either.

For the past 50 years Congress has tried repeatedly to control farm surpluses. How? By limiting acreages, (Soil bank, Conservation reserve, PIK, allotments). By slaughtering pigs in the 1930s. By the Dairy Opportunity program. By setting quotas, and by the whole herd buyout.

Not one of them ever worked. Why? Smart farmers put the rock pile in the soil bank, fertilized the better fields liberally, slaughtered the culls and fed and bred the best better, bought and farmed the same land that their neighbors had been paid to abandon. With the result that farm production INCREASED! We keep repeating the same mistakes because it is politically expedient.

Since food is a world business, not just ours, it is very hard if not downright impossible to control our USA production and maintain

satisfactory prices. All the other competing countries like Germany, Australia, Brazil and Argentina are trying to protect theirs also. We play by our rules and they play by theirs, making it a lopsided game. We cut back while they fill in the gaps.

None of this is really new. It has been going on for a long time. It may continue, in a cycle of up's and down's, for years to come.

The answers to the present farm crisis will continue to be a band aid application by Congressional action, transfusions of money in the form of loans or subsidies, occasional tragedies like weather, war, or other woes that affect some part of the world. Meanwhile, some farmers will prosper while others quit the farm for some other line of work. Maybe it's time to inject some of our great farm tradition of hard work and honest dealing into the rest of the economy anyway.

Thomas Malthus might reverse his theory if he were alive today. It might read, "The food supply tends to increase faster than the population of the world can eat it." Of course, you and I know that it's more a problem of distribution

than total production. And the whole thing is complicated further by the question raised by The Little

Red Hen, "Who will eat the loaf that I baked?" Or who will pay me an honest price for what I produce?

Seven Producers Appointed to Milk Board

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Grubb has announced the appointment of seven dairymen to three-year terms on the Advisory Board of the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program. New members are David Bird, Catawissa, Montour County; Glenn Houck, Spruce Creek, Huntingdon County; and James Turner, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County.

Their terms start with the October 16 annual meeting of the 21-member board, which sets policy and oversees a \$2 million annual advertising, promotion and research budget. All are milk producers who contribute to the state program.

Reappointed for a second term were Janice Burkholder, Cham-

bersburg, Franklin County; Paul Corbin, Reynoldsville, Jefferson County; Albert Hack, Berwick, Columbia County; and Richard M. Shellenberger, Manheim, Lancaster County.

The seven appointees were selected from nominations made by milk producers or by organizations representing dairymen, the secretary explained.



The state dairy promotion program was established as part of a national initiative to increase milk advertising, research, and consumption.

"The Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program fills the gaps between the regional and national programs, especially with statewide and local milk promotions," Grubb said.

ATTENTION CATTLE FEEDERS

Start Them Off Right


With

LACTO-VITA


A concentrated supplemental water-soluble vitamins and DDS-1 Lactobacillus acidophilus (developed by University of Nebraska), for all livestock and poultry.

- It aids in getting animals off to a good start during periods of stress, reduced feed intake, shipping, diseases, extreme changes in weather, and ration changes. It implants beneficial bacteria and maintains normal intestinal flora and inhibits the growth of pathogenic organisms.
- Contains vitamins A, D₃, E, B₁₂, Riboflavin, and other B vitamins, and DDS-1 Lactobacillus acidophilus.
- Dosage: mix 4 oz. to 50 gallons of drinking water
- Packaged in 5 lb. pail, 6 pails in a case



AARON S. GROFF & SON

FARM & DAIRY STORE
RD 3 Ephrata, PA 17522 (Hinkletown) Phone (717) 354-4631
Store Hours - Mon., Thurs. & Fri. 7 A.M. to 8 P.M.
Tues. & Wed. 7 A.M. to 5 P.M.; Sat. 7 A.M. to 12 Noon





Grain drying quality

Shivvers automatic continuous flow grain drying systems eliminate the over-drying often caused by slow stirring devices. The Shivvers' secret is the tapered sweep auger which rotates around the drying bin, removing even layers of dried grain, assuring the removal of uniformly dried grain. For a better way to dry grain, see your Shivvers dealer.

The Shivvers Challenge Will Make You A Believer

SHIVERS

— WE ARE YOUR SERVICE COMPANY —

Need Service On Your:

- Farm Fan Dryer or Fan Heater Units
- Shivvers Drying System • M-C Dryer
- Augers Repaired or Replaced (U-Trough or Tube-Type)
- Bucket Elevators and Down Spouts Repaired or Replaced

Give Us A Call!!

CONESTOGA AGRI-SYSTEMS

Jay Kreider, Mgr.
215 D W. Main St. — Leola, PA 17540
(717) 656-0140

LOMBARDINI


The Powerhouse



Model 11LD625-3

DIESELS

The Farmer's Choice



Model 9LD560-2

MOWERS, BALERS, CORNPICKERS, CHOPPERS, ETC.

We have the right size, weight, shape, price and engine available. 4 to 80 H.P.

LOMBARDINI DIESEL USES 1/2 OR LESS FUEL THAN GAS ENGINES LESS DOWNTIME THAN GAS ENGINES

Is your old engine giving you a headache? Try a LOMBARDINI... World's Largest Manufacturer of Small Air-Cooled Diesel Engines.

DIESELS OUR SPECIALTY

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF:

1. 12 month warranty or 2,000 hours
2. Low fuel consumption
3. Low maintenance
4. Price per horsepower
5. Easy starting
6. 100% back-up with parts and service.

Let Us Know Your Service Problems. Give Us A Call.

Service After The Sale... That's Us!

HOOVER DIESEL SERVICE

255 Mascot Rd.
Ronks, PA 17572
(717) 656-3322
(717) 295-1729

Furnace Rd.
Box 91A, R.D. 3
Quarryville, PA 17566
(717) 786-2173

DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED