

# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

### Dairy Of Distinction Says This Is Where Milk Comes From

In the Dairy of Distinction program we have a unique opportunity to take advantage of the consumers' already developed nostalgia for the farm. Deep inside, the general public knows their roots are in the soil. And intuitively the public senses they can't long continue to suck the life blood out of the farm with below cost food prices. People empathize with farmers. And they like the farm.

So to recognize farms that keep their homesteads beautiful and give a good impression to all milk drinkers who drive past the farm is an excellent idea. This gives us another opportunity to put pictures (both word and photo) of nice looking farms into the public eye via the public media. Soon local district committees in Pennsylvania will be named and will meet to get the program under way. If you are asked to serve on a committee, by all means take the opportunity to serve your fellow neighbors and the positive outlook this program gives to dairy farmers.

While the program is low budget, Pennsylvania now has its own treasurer to accommodate those persons and organizations who have a concern that milk promotional moneys get used only in Pennsylvania. With the state organization in place, we can begin our own program here and still

retain communication ties in the larger northeast regional organization. The chance to talk across state and organizational lines is one of the important contributions this program can make to the dairy industry. When people work together, they get together.

We have an excellent precedent to follow in New York state. Their program has been in operation long enough to recognize more than 300 farm. They have the "bugs" worked out of the program. And farmers who have received the honor feel a sense of usefulness in promoting milk right at home. These farmers often share a comradeship with fellow farm family winners. And when they decide to sell the farm, they often mention on the sale bill that their farm is recognized as a Dairy of Distinction.

Since Pennsylvania has 10 districts and each district will be allowed to recognize approximately 10 farms each year, we would expect that by May of 1987, we will have 100 pretty dairy farms in Pennsylvania with attractive signs along state roads and super highways that say, "This farm has been designated a Dairy of Distinction by our fellow neighboring dairymen. Our pretty farm is the kind of place where your milk comes from."

Well, the signs don't say all of that. But that's what they mean.

### FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Dear Editor:

A well-known picture that I am sure most of us have seen is of an elderly man with his head bowed saying grace for a small loaf of bread and a glass of water. Yet today I read in the Lancaster Farming that they have collected nearly \$95,000 beef tax in Pennsylvania alone.

The pork tax must have been at least half that much. Yet at this time of giving I have yet to see one ad that says "this year give beef or pork". And if you think for one minute elderly people don't appreciate this type of gift, we have done it for years.

I have found clothes, ties, cologne and pins left after everyone went home, but I have yet to have anyone forget their meat or eggs. It would be better yet to buy \$150,000 worth of ground beef and sausage and give it away because I am sure the people who write our ads are eating lobster and caviar. Then maybe next year we will find a picture of an elderly person with a loaf of bread and a glass of water and a small piece of meat.

Thank You,  
Ben G. Housman  
Middletown, PA

Dear Editor:

My brother is a subscriber of this newspaper and I read your "Farmers Almanac" where you answer inquiries on different subjects.

I would appreciate it if you or any of the readers could please send me some simple and easy instructions how to make plain,

sturdy brooms from home-grown broom corn.

I feel that possibly someone in the Lancaster area knows how to make brooms at home, and I hope they would share this information or advise where I can obtain it.

Sincerely,  
Miss Maria Shiva  
Lehighton



### NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

#### To Sort Tobacco

Tobacco stripping is underway in this part of the state and many hours will be spent removing the leaves from the stalk. The days of special handling and sizing seems to be over; however, it is still very important that growers sort the injured and ground leaves from the good tobacco. This will be required if the crop is being sold on grade.

With some "pull off" crops this is less important. On the other hand, growers should be fair enough to sort out the undesirable leaves. If this is not done, the buyer will be unhappy and look elsewhere for tobacco supplies. Some sorting is necessary with every crop regardless of the method of selling.

To Check  
Barn Ventilation  
Proper ventilation of all types of

livestock and poultry buildings is very important during the winter months. When the warm, moisture-laden air is not moved out of the area, we usually see condensation on the windows, walls and ceilings. This is especially true with little or poor insulation.

Exhaust fans will move air out, and protect the building. This time of year the barns are filled with livestock; these animals give off large amounts of body fat. When condensation occurs, it is a sign that some attention is needed. In most cases it is a problem with ventilation or with insulation.

#### To Use A Real Tree For Christmas

This is the time of year that most people are considering the type of Christmas tree to buy. And I hear objectives to using real trees as being wasteful. So let's take a look at this situation.

Actually, the Christmas tree farmer is raising trees as a crop, and a source of income. This is much the same as the farmer who raises wheat, corn or soybeans to sell or use on his own farm. Christmas trees are raised on land not suited for other crops — not even pasture land. It's mostly rolling land and highly acid.

Also, remember that these Christmas tree farmers are putting this land to good use by conserving the soil and providing an excellent water shed. Keep in mind that Christmas tree farmers have

a very slow turnover in their capital — from the time they plant the tree till it's ready for your living room can be from five to six years for small trees and 10 to 15 years on the larger trees. Another fact to consider is there is nothing like the fresh aroma of a real tree in your home during the Christmas season.

#### To Protect Trees and Shrubs

Your trees and shrubs will be able to withstand the winter conditions in better shape — with a little help from you. Some winter protection might help save your valued trees and shrubs.

Thin-barked trees can be damaged by sunscald in the winter. That's why it's a good idea to wrap the trunks of such trees as sugar maple, tulip tree, American linden, flowering dogwood and plum. You can wrap them now, but be sure to take the wrapping off late next spring. You can use commercial tree wrapping, starting at the ground level and working up the tree, overlapping about every half inch. Tie the wrap with twine or use a waterproof tape several places along the stem.

Smaller ornaments should be mulched; this will not keep the soil from freezing but it helps keep the soil frozen to prevent root injury caused by alternate freezing and thawing of the soil. The mulch should be loose, but it should stay where you put it. Shredded bark does a good job.

### Farm Calendar

Saturday, December 13  
Pa. Flying Farmer Christmas Party, 6 p.m., Belleville Mennonite School.

Sunday, December 14  
Farmland Preservation Breakfast, Family Style Restaurant, 2323 Lincoln Highway East, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday, December 16  
Rutgers Pest Control Conference; field, forage and vegetables, Quality Inn, U.S. Route 1, North Brunswick; continues tomorrow.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers' Association Christmas party, 7:30 p.m., Ephrata Junior High School.

Wednesday, December 17  
13th Annual Mid-Atlantic No-Till Conference, York County Fairgrounds.

Friday, December 19  
Keystone Shepherds Forum, Ramada Inn, Somerset; continues through Dec. 20.

### THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

NOT "UNTIMELY BORN"  
December 14, 1986

#### Background Scripture:

1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Luke 1:1-4; John 20:30,31; 1 John 1:1-4.

#### Devotional Reading:

John 21:24,25.

The Apostle Paul makes a very curious statement in telling the church at Corinth about the source of his Christian experience and gospel. Speaking of Christ's appearances to the various disciples, he concludes, "Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me" (1 Cor. 15:8). What did he mean by "untimely born"? Scholars are not certain, but it would seem that his words must be a reflection upon a criticism that was almost surely leveled at him: although he was presuming to preach the Good News like Christ's other disciples, he had, in fact, come along too late to ever have known Jesus in the days of his earthy ministry. How could he preach with authority when he had never met, let alone sat as a disciple of, Jesus Christ?

#### EYEWITNESSES

Paul's problem with this is also our problem. Like him, we are not what the other disciples of Jesus most certainly were: eyewitnesses. Much of what we find in the gospels is based in some way upon eyewitness experience. Luke tells us that his narrative is based upon the testimony of those "who from

the beginning were eyewitnesses..." (Lk. 1:2) and John says that his gospel is dependent upon some of Jesus's "signs in the presence of the disciples" (John 20:30). We are dependent, to some extent, upon the witness that is passed on to us by those who were eyewitnesses. So we acknowledge that our faith rests in part upon that, as John puts it, "Which we have heard" (1 John 1:1).

But there can be and must be more to our faith than what we have heard from others, important as that might be. Paul speaks not only of what the other disciples have seen of the resurrected Christ, but also that "he appeared also to me" (1 Cor. 15:7). Although Paul had never met Jesus of Nazareth, he did experience the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus—and that, along with what he had "also received" from Peter, the twelve and others, formed the basis of his ministry. What he heard from others and what he experienced himself—that was his authority. And is it not ours, too.

#### TO KNOW HIM

Our Christian faith is not to be founded merely upon what we have heard from others, important though that may be. In fact, what we heard from others is meant to enable us to experience Christ for ourselves. The words that the writer of the Fourth Gospel put together "were written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). The gospels were written, not just so that we may know about the Christ, but that we might know him ourselves.

That doesn't mean that we will all "know him" in the same way. Even the disciples whom Paul referred to had different experiences of the Risen Christ and reported those experiences in different ways. Although we may not meet him as Paul did on the Damascus road, Paul expects that we will know Christ just as he did. John also refers to this when he says, "...that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and that our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3).

Thus, when it comes to experiencing the Christ, no one is "untimely born."

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BILL, I'D BETTER BE GOING, MY NEIGHBOR AL HAD TO GO OUT OF TOWN FOR SOMETHING TODAY, AND I SAID THAT I WOULD TAKE CARE OF HIS MILKING FOR HIM.

THAT'S NICE OF YOU, OTIS

WELL HE HAS A MILKING MACHINE, SO IT ISN'T LIKE THE OLD DAYS WHEN YOU HAD TO MILK BY HAND. BY THE WAY, DO YOU KNOW WHAT AL HAD TO GO OUT OF TOWN FOR?

YUP, A PART FOR HIS MILKING MACHINE. I GUESS IT'S BROKE-DOWN

WHAT?

HERE OTIS, YOU MIGHT NEED THIS