



# OPINION

## We Love Our Cows

Sometimes we are a little careless about the environment we create for our cows this time of year. As we traveled around with Dr. Zilhardt this week, we recognized some things that farmers overlook in this busy time of getting the crops into the ground. We were especially conscious of some meadows with debris and broken down fences in the cow pastures. These obstacles provide a nosy cow with the opportunity to injure herself. Cows do get injured by other bossy cows and riding during heat cycles. And there probably is not very much we can do about this kind of injury. But obstacles in meadows and holding

areas can be removed. In addition, poisonous plants and trimmings from yew bushes and wild cherry trees should never have any place in areas where cows can reach them.

Dr. John Clark, the regional Purina nutritionist, thinks the farmer really makes all the differences when it comes to a healthy dairy herd. He calls it dairy cow husbandry.

So let's do some good dairy cow husbandry in our desire to remove possible injury hazards for our cows. This makes economic sense. And it allows us to show we love our cows.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Continue Forage Feeding

Dairy and beef cattle producers should continue to feed some dry matter while the animals are on pasture. The feeding of hay or silage, when the cattle are turned out to pasture will result in more uniform production. Also, keeping some dry matter in the ration will help prevent serious scouring and bloating.

Some producers provide this forage by way of a portable hay or feed bunk in the pasture area. The animals should consume some of the dry forage along with lush spring pasture. The hay should be fed early in the day, before the herd goes to the new pasture. Later

in the season the stored hay or silage will continue to be useful when growth slows down due to dry weather and high temperatures.

### To Check Stored Pesticides

The shelf life of most pesticides, when stored in their original container, is usually several years. The greatest problem with stored pesticides comes from freezing temperatures. Cold over-winter temperatures may cause a breakdown of the emulsifier in liquid materials. These materials may not mix properly when added to the spray water.

To determine if the pesticide will still mix properly with water, follow this easy procedure: (1) place one-half pint of water in a small container, (2) add one-half teaspoon of the pesticide, (3) shake or stir thoroughly (you should get a milky mixture), (4) let stand for about one hour. The spray mix should remain an even milky mixture. If an oily scum or layer forms on top, or if a layer of curds appears on top, don't use the material.

### To Check Water Supplies

Water is one of our most important resources, but it should be checked periodically. Many families depend on wells for their water supply, but they pay little attention to the water unless the pump fails or the well runs dry. Your water should be tested an-

nually to determine its quality.

It is important to test water following any reconstruction or addition to the water supply or its distribution system. Water supplies should be checked whenever a disease occurs that may have been caused by unsafe drinking water. If water changes in taste, odor or appearance for no reason, it should be tested.

There are many tests and analyses that can be used. Two of the most important are for nitrates and bacteria.

### To Be Aware of Ticks

The tick season is here. The amount of calls we're receiving will confirm that. These pests may be on almost any dog or person that walks through uncultivated fields or woody areas from May to September.

Ticks await their victims on low-growing shrubs and on tall grass. They attach to, and feed on the blood of dogs and humans as well as many other animals.

To control the American dog tick, first clean the area of tall grass and weeds on which ticks await their victims. Also treat bushes 20 to 30 feet on either side of the paths with either Sevin, Diazinon or Lindane. The dog should also be treated with a 5 percent Sevin dust at weekly intervals, or as needed, to control ticks.

## FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Editor:

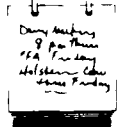
For some time I have been meaning to write you and thank you for your fine publication, Lancaster Farming. But as so often such things are often delayed much too long. But the real reason that has prompted me to write at this time is to especially thank Chester Hughes for his column beep briefs. I find his articles very informative. And as a beef breeder, extremely helpful. So helpful in fact that last week I had cut down several trees of which one was a wild cherry tree and piled the branches on a brush pile in the middle of the pasture for burning at a later date. I stated the

articles are helpful because last week's article was on "Don't Poison Your Cattle!" And in it Chester explained the toxic effect wild cherry leaves have on cattle.

I cannot possibly thank Chester for his fine articles, and you for the Lancaster Farming, enough, for surely if I had not read last week's Beef Briefs I would have had many dead purebred cattle this week, as I would have rotated the cattle unknowingly into the pasture with the cherry tree leaves. Thank you ever so much.

Dean E. Kramer  
Bernville

## Farm Calendar



**Saturday, May 23**  
NW Keystone Jr. Beef Classic, Fairgrounds, Meadville.  
W. Pa. Rabbit Breeders, Fairgrounds, Meadville.  
Maryland State 4-H Dairy Bowl, Symons Hall, University of Maryland.  
Pa. Flying Farmers monthly meeting, home of Robert and Verna Sollenberger; lunch, 1 p.m. Call 717-867-2384 for more information.

Bradford County dairy princess pageant, Towanda High School, 8:15 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 27**  
Hunterdon County Woodlot Management Program, Vorhees High School.

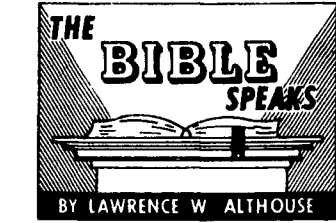
**Saturday, May 30**  
York County dairy princess pageant, 4-H Center, 8 p.m.  
Delaware Strawberry Festival, Middletown High School, S. Broad Street.  
Chester County dairy princess pageant, West Fallowfield

Christian School, Atglen, 7:30 p.m.  
Franklin County 4-H Spring Preview Show, Shippensburg Fairgrounds.  
Sawmill efficiency and maintenance program, Holiday Inn, White Haven.  
Mifflin County dairy princess pageant, Oakwood Center in basement of Valley View Haven Rest Home, 8 p.m.

**Monday, June 1**  
Hunterdon County Sheep Breeder's Association meeting, Extension Center, 8 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 3**  
Lancaster County Conservation District Meeting, Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.  
Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture monthly meeting, Extension Center, 8 p.m.

**Friday, June 5**  
Blair County dairy princess pageant, Memorial Park Banquet Hall, Martinsburg.



## WHEN YOU ARE DISAPPOINTED

May 24, 1987

### Background Scripture:

Hosea 10:1 through 11:11

### Devotional Reading:

Psalms 78:32-39

If you've never been disappointed in another person, you've led a remarkably sheltered life! Sooner or later, someone will let you down. Worst of all is when we are disappointed by someone whose loyalty and dependability we did not question. The experience can be devastating and throw us into a deep depression. It may seem that we can never again trust anyone.

Disappointment, the Bible indicates, is not limited to human beings. In his own way, it would seem, God too can be disappointed when his children let him down and even betray him. If we think people have let us down, think of how

much God's children have disappointed him! Betraying his trust in us seems to be one of the recurring themes in the history of the world.

Speaking through the prophet Hosea, God speaks of Israel as a parent would remember the childhood of his offspring: "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son" (11:1). There is tenderness in this analogy: "Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms.. I led them with cords of compassion, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke of their jaws and I bent down to them and fed them" (11:3,4).

The response of the people of Israel was that of little children: "The more I called them, the more they went from me" (11:2). In that regard, some of us never grow up, for we spend our lives pretending that we do not hear his call.

Through numerous prophets God has warned them about following after the Baal cults, but they turned a deaf ear to these entreaties. As a result their Baal will go into exile with them: "Yes, the thing itself shall be carried to Assyria, as tribute to their kingdom" (10:6).

Not only did the people of Israel worship false gods, but they also allowed iniquity and injustice to prevail throughout the land. "You have plowed iniquity, you have reaped injustice, you have eaten the fruit of lies" (10:13). The consequences of their sin are staggering: "Thus shall it be done to you, O house of Israel, because of your great wickedness" (10:15).

The people of Israel also disappointed God in yet another way: instead of trusting in him, they looked to arms and military pacts to save them from invasion and domination. "Because you have trusted in your chariots and in the multitude of your warriors, therefore the tumult of wars shall

arise among your people, and all your fortresses shall be destroyed..." (10:13,14). And the consequences will be severe: "They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me" (11:5).

All three of God's complaints—idolatry, iniquity, and reliance on military might — are current sources of God's disappointment. We are still "letting him down" the way that Israel let him down. And we are still suffering the same kinds of consequences. But the good news is that, even in the midst of our disloyalty, God still perseveres in his love and pursues as much as he did Israel: "How can I give you up, O Ephraim! How can I hand you over, O Israel?... My heart recoils within me, my compassion grows warm and tender" (11:8).

So, the next time we find ourselves disappointed by the disloyalty of someone who lets us down, let us remember that our human disappointment is nothing compared with that of God. And let us remember, too, that as God's persistent, forgiving love was stronger than his disappointment, let us make certain that our love in Christ is also much stronger than our disappointment.



Please support your high school's Vocational Agriculture- FFA program!

