



# OPINION

## Dispel Fears With Facts

A moderately-glossy folder of information from the Animal Health Institute came this week. We had to admit, that to us, Animal Health Institute was an unfamiliar name with a new logo. But the cover picture of a dairy cow on a yellow-gridded background soon had us reading the latest information on bovine somatotropin (BST). It seems all the manufacturers, or potential manufacturers, of this new biotechnology product have banded together in an unprecedented bit of cooperation among primary competitors in a race to develop commercial applications for this new technology. The large pharmaceutical companies like American Cyanamid, Elanco Products, Monsanto and UpJohn have all joined together under the new Animal Health Institute to provide information for the public and for dairymen.

These companies make equal contribution to the biotechnology policy task force that is coordinated by the Animal Health Institute. It draws upon the personnel and resources of the companies but does not get involved in individual products or research.

The new institute has been formed because, as with anything this new and revolutionary, BST has raised many concerns. From the welfare of the cow to the continued quality of the milk. And dairymen are concerned about the burden of overproduction and the need for increased management skills. So a lot of questions need to be answered. And the Animal Health Institute believes it can answer these questions with facts.

For example, to determine how Americans view biotechnology in general and a particular product for dairy cows, the Animal Health Institute's BST Public Information Working Group commissioned an opinioned survey. The dairy product involved in the survey is bovine somatotropin. This hormone produced through biotechnology

aims to improve the efficiency of milk production by dairy cows. The opinion survey sought peoples' initial impressions on biotechnology and BST. A total of 1,315 adults nationwide were surveyed by telephone in February of 1987. Of those surveyed, 77 percent said that science has brought more advances than problems. Sixty-two percent said that biotechnology will make our lives better. Eighty-two percent think biotechnology will increase the world's food supply. And 61 percent favor government regulation of biotechnology.

This would seem to indicate the public views the new science favorably. However, BST is very little known. Only three percent of those surveyed had heard a great deal about it. Nine percent had heard some. Twenty-two percent knew very little. And 66 percent knew nothing about BST. Of those who had heard about it, opinion was evenly divided. One third favored it. One third opposed it. And one third didn't know.

At least so far consumers do not have a solidified opinion of BST. Of considerable interest to the dairy industry is the fact that people who drink the most milk were the most supportive of BST in every question than people who drink little or no milk.

Few people are consistently hostile to BST. Most consumers lean toward arguments in favor of BST when told the facts.

Certainly we know a lot more about BST now than we did when the first headlines hit the newspapers a few years ago. But we still have a lot to learn. And as the facts become known through research, a lot of fears will be dispelled if the public is made aware of the facts. At least that is the belief of the Animal Health Institute. And the moderately glossy folder of information is the first attempt to dispel fears with facts.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Make Summer Alfalfa Seeding

Early to mid August are good times to seed alfalfa, particularly in this part of the state. When seeded during the period of good soil moisture, the plants have time to become established before freezing weather arrives. With dry conditions in some areas, it would be wise to delay seeding until moisture arrives.

Alfalfa is still one of our major forage crops and deserves the very best of planning and management. Band seeding is the best method to make this seeding.

Weed control is a "must" with a straight seeding without a nurse crop. Many stands are injured by poor weed control during the first year. Refer to the 1987-88 Agronomy Guide for assistance on weed control practices. Be aware that alfalfa should not be planted in ground that has been treated for corn weed control during the past year, especially fields sprayed with atrazine. Alfalfa is an excellent forage crop; however, it does

require attention and good management.

### To Be Aware of Lightning Danger

Hot summer temperatures often bring severe thunder and lightning storms; and we've had some in certain areas this summer, and no doubt there will be more to come. We urge parents to warn their youngsters of the danger of seeking shelter under a tree or swimming in a pond or creek before and during a storm. Safety in a truck, car or building should be encouraged as the storm approaches, as well as during the storm. Stay away from electric fences and farm equipment that is out in the open.

Buildings with lightning rods should be checked to be sure the rods are grounded in moist soil and free of debris that would prevent the cable from taking the charge into the ground.

### To Fertilize

#### Strawberry Plants

Most strawberry growers have realized good returns from their plants in recent years. The prices are favorable and the market is there. In order to realize the maximum yield next spring, we suggest the plants be well fertilized this summer. An application of 20 to 30 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre over the plants during July or

August should give strength to new runners and increase fruit yield. This application should be made when the plants are dry to avoid burning the leaves. In the home strawberry patch use about one-fourth pound of ammonium nitrate per 100 square feet of bed space. Good care of the strawberry plants this summer will bring about better yields next June.

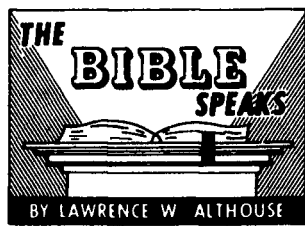
### To Check Pets

#### For Fleas

Warm weather favors the development of fleas and you will find them jumping right now. First of all treat the dogs and cats with commercial flea powders. Flea collars appear to do a good job against fleas but check the pet frequently because the skin of some animals becomes irritated by the material in the collar. For indoors, treat infested areas with ant and roach aerosols. Do not overlook the bedding of pets or their sleeping quarters. Sevin does an effective job in this area.

Because fleas often infest lawns in the summer, treat the grass with sprays or dusts containing either Sevin or Diazinon. Apply these sprays according to the directions on the container.

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### WAITING FOR GOD'S SONS

July 26, 1987

Background Scripture: Romans 8: 1-27.

Devotional Reading: Romans 8:18-25.

Samuel Beckett's play, "Waiting For Godot," seems to be a drama about two men waiting for a third person, Godot, who never comes. Actually, it is a play about waiting for God and Beckett is saying that waiting for God is just as futile. The play was very popular back in the 1960's during that time when many were certain that "God is dead!"

### WAITING FOR GOD

Although we no longer hear that term "God is dead!" there are still many people who lose their faith because it seems to them that God is not going to come and do any of the things he has promised. They looked for peace at last and war continues. They looked for brotherhood and find that prejudice is still a strong force in the world. They looked for righteousness, but find that corruption still reaches out powerful tentacles. So, they grow tired and despair of waiting any longer.

Maybe, however, we are waiting in vain because we are waiting for the wrong person. Perhaps it is not God who has failed to show up, but someone else. Who? In

Romans, Paul says, "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God." This, I believe is not a casual statement on Paul's part, for he makes several pointed references to the "sons of God." For example: "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God" and shortly afterward he says, "but you have received the spirit of sonship." And, using slightly different terminology: "...it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with out spirit that we are children of God."

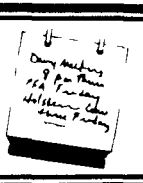
**SONS OF GOD**  
Who are these "sons" of "children" of God? Are these the very same people who have cried in contrition, "Who will deliver me from this body of death?" Yes, these are the very same people. These are the people who realize that there are two different ways to respond to God's mercy. One way is to use it as an escape from the consequences of our sins and failure. Those who choose this way are not really concerned with the cost of their sin, so long as someone else pays it for them. They are also likely to spend their lives sinning and seeking forgiveness over and over again.

The other way of responding to God's forgiveness, however, is to use that grace as the power to change our lives. Because God's mercy overcomes our guilt, out of gratitude we devote ourselves to doing the very best we can. We become "sons" of God, not because we never fail, but because we have committed ourselves to God's service with a dedication that sin and failure cannot shake. By the power of God's mercy, we are empowered to live better lives: "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you."

Isn't this, then what the world is really waiting for — not God, who is already here, but the "sons" and "children" of God, who, by the power of his grace, can be the channels through which God's ancient promises are kept and his eternal plan fulfilled?

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## Farm Calendar



### Saturday, July 25

York County 4-H Dairy Roundup, 10 a.m., York Fairgrounds.  
District III Jersey Picnic, 11:30 a.m., Arrowsmith's Farm, Peach Bottom.  
Pennsylvania Brown Swiss Association Picnic, Ronnie Daubert's Farm, Pine Grove.  
Columbia/Luzerne County Holstein Picnic.

### Bucks County Holstein Picnic.

Sunday, July 26  
Cecil County Fair, Fair Hill, Md.; continues through Aug. 1.  
Pa. Angus Field Day, McKean Brothers, Mercer.

### Monday, July 27

Summer Tour, Pa. Vegetable Growers Association, Erie County.  
York County Holstein Show, York

Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.  
Cecil County, Md., Fair, Fair Hill Fairgrounds; continues through Aug. 1.

Wyoming/Lackawanna Holstein Summer Picnic.

### Tuesday, July 28

Lancaster County Hog Show, Lancaster Stockyards; continues tomorrow.

PAFC Young Cooperative Leaders Conference, Sheraton-Danville; continues through July 30.

Summer Love Sundae Tuesday, Main Capitol Steps, Harrisburg.

Penn Allied Nursery Trade Show, Valley Forge Convention Center.

Dairy Tour sponsored by Wayne and Crawford County Extension Center; continues tomorrow.

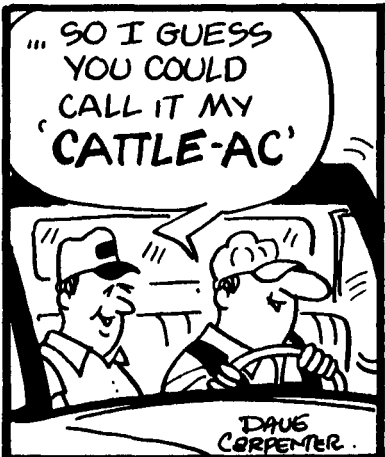
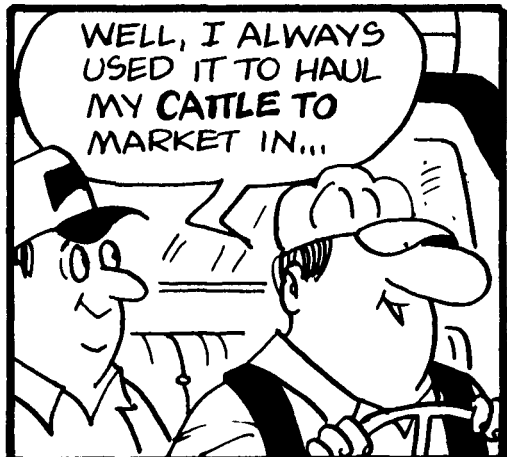
### Wednesday, July 29

Sire Power Sale, Kutztown Fairgrounds.

Hunterdon County Annual Farmer's Businessmen's picnic; Stonegate Standardbred Farms, Hill Road, Gardner, 5 p.m. Tours begin at 7 p.m.

McKean/Cameron Extension Executive Committee Picnic, Sizerville Park, Emporium, 7 p.m.

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