



OPINION

Quoted Out Of Context

When you consider that about four billion chickens are consumed in the United States each year, the eight or nine salmonella cases linked to poultry in a 10-year span seems minuscule. But like anything else, when you put small things under the microscope, they become enlarged to the public eye. That's what has been going on lately in the poultry industry.

Media reports of salmonella contamination of chicken, particularly a segment last spring on CBS' "60 Minutes," frightened the public and called into question the Agriculture Department's inspection program. Most of the reports seized on a 1979 survey, published in the 1982 Poultry Science journal, that said 37 percent of raw chickens, 5 percent of raw beef and 12 percent of raw pork had salmonella contamination.

But poultry experts say those numbers, applied against the number of actual outbreaks of illness, indicate how easy it is to kill the bacteria by normal sanitary and cooking practices.

The federal Centers for Disease Control says the number of reported salmonella poisoning outbreaks has increased from 1980 to '84 — but those linked to chicken decreased. Of the 39 total

reported outbreaks in 1980, 18 percent were linked to poultry; of 55 outbreaks in 1982, 11 percent were linked to poultry; of the 82 total outbreaks in 1984, 1.2 percent were linked to poultry. The 1984 figures were the latest available.

"What's even more amazing is the numbers of cases are dropping while the consumption of chicken is rising every year," said John Barnes, a veterinarian at the University of North Carolina. Barnes, a recognized expert on poultry and food processing, testified before the House subcommittee on livestock, dairy and poultry in June about what could be done to improve meat inspections.

Consumption of chicken has risen about 10 percent each of the past five years, he said. "Instead of a kick in the teeth, the poultry industry deserves a pat on the back for cleaning up its act.

"I don't disagree with most of the facts '60 Minutes' used. It's just that they picked and chose only the bad things. They never said anything about all the advances the industry has made in sanitary conditions, flock health and decreasing drug use."

No question about it. Poultry gets a bum rap when facts are quoted out of context.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Observe Poultry Health

The Lancaster County Commissioners have proclaimed August as Poultry Month. So, this is a real good time to reflect on the impact this important industry has on the economy of Lancaster County. Poultry products in Lancaster County provide nourishment for over 6 million people. The value of the poultry products sold totaled over \$176 million. It is estimated that nearly 10,000 people are employed in the many different areas of the poultry industry in Lancaster County.

The industry is strong because of the dedicated, well managed poultry farms along with a highly efficient and supportive allied industry. Eggs and poultry meat are two of the most nourishing foods in your health diet. Let's be supportive of this important part of

our agricultural economy during Poultry Month.

To Attend Ag Progress Days

Most farmers do not need much prodding to visit an agricultural show whether it is in the county or half way across the state.

Each year thousands of people have jammed Penn State University's Rock Springs Agricultural Research Center, nine miles west of Boalsburg on Route 45, to attend the Annual Ag Progress Days. The dates are August 18-20. Activities will start at 9:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. each day.

This year's show should be one of the biggest and best ever. The theme of this year's event is "The Agricultural Scientist: Working For A Better Tomorrow." Come to Ag Progress Days and see how agriculture research affects your life. This year's Ag Progress Days will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station.

More than 300 commercial companies will be exhibiting their products for home, farming and country living. Take a day out of your busy schedule (you've earned it) and plan to attend Ag Progress Days. There is no parking or admission charge.

To Flush Ewe Flock

Sheep producers in this part of the country should be planning for the 1987 lamb crop. The starting place is to have healthy ewes and a good ram. The practice of "flushing" the ewe flock several weeks prior to the breeding season is

recommended in order to get more twin lambs.

This refers to the feeding of extra grain, or the ewes having access to lush grass-type pasture in order to bring them into a gaining condition. Ewes that are not thrifty at breeding time will be more likely to throw only a single lamb. The control of internal parasites should be given attention prior to the breeding season.

To Be Aware of the Pollen Count

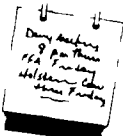
The "hay fever" season is here. Despite its name, "hay" is not normally the cause of hay fever. Ragweed is the chief cause. Ninety percent of all allergic reactions to grass and weed pollens are due to ragweed.

Hay fever is a seasonal disease. It's a disease that many people tend to minimize despite the fact that one out of every three sufferers develop its serious form — chronic asthma.

In Lancaster County it is widespread from early August through September when the weed flowers. The best way to destroy ragweed over large areas is by the use of a weed spray such as 2,4-D. Cutting the plant low, near the roots is recommended for small areas. The best way to prevent the spread of ragweed is to keep idle land covered with grass.

The Cooperative Extension Service is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educational institution.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, August 1

Pa. Simmental Field Day, G and J Valley Farm, Spring Grove, 9 a.m.

Berks County Dairy Festival, Grings Mill.

York County 4-H Horse Roundup, 8:30 a.m., Spring Valley Park Animal Arena.

Ram Lamb Sale, Meat Evaluation Center, Penn State, 1 p.m.

Somerset County Holstein Picnic, Adams County 4-H Dairy Roundup.

Monday, August 3

Eastern Shore Championship Holstein Show, 10 a.m., Queen Anne's County 4-H Park, Centerville, Md.

Penn State 4-H Week, Penn State University Park campus; continues through Aug. 6.

Tuesday, August 4

Fayette County Holstein Show, Fayette County Fairgrounds, Uniontown, 9 a.m.

Pa. CMA Dairy and Nutrition and Herd Health, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 10 a.m.

Butler County Holstein Twilight Meeting.

Northumberland Woodland Tour, 6:30 p.m., Paul Kline, Greenbrier.

Ephrata Young Farmer Tour, Ephrata Junior High School.

Wednesday, August 5

Lancaster County Conservation District Meeting, Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 6

Lancaster County Holstein Club Field Day, Harold and Cindy Shellenberger, Mt. Joy.

Pa. Christmas Tree Growers Meeting, State College; continues through Aug. 8.

Farm City Day, Penn Square, Reading, 10:30 a.m.

Central Jersey Holstein Show, Flemington Fairground, 10 a.m.

Friday, August 7

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Mercer County 4-H Roundup, 6-8 p.m., 4-H Park.

Lancaster County Poultry Queen Contest, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 6:30 p.m.

Clinton County Holstein Show, Mackeyville, 10:30 a.m.

Cumberland County 4-H Dairy Roundup, Carlisle Fairgrounds.

Morrison Cove Holstein Show, Martinsburg, 9 a.m.

York County Potato Tour, Extension Service, 9 a.m.

Saturday, August 8

Fox Hill Angus Lawn Sale, Kennett Square.

Eastern Pa. Championship Holstein Show, Kutztown, 10 a.m.

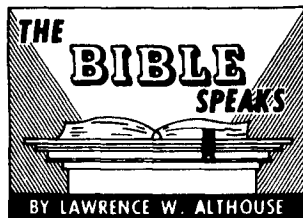
American Association of Meat Processors Convention, Louis-

ville, Ky.; continues through Aug. 11.

McKean County 4-H Horse Show/Roundup, Fairgrounds, East Smethport.

Bradford County Holstein Picnic, Chester County 4-H Market Hog Sale.

(Turn to Page A32)



INVISIBLE MEANS OF SUPPORT

August 2, 1987

Background Scripture: Romans 8:28-39.

Devotional Reading: 1 Peter 3:3-9.

A few weeks ago, a friend attempted to take his own life. At first, none of us could believe it. It seemed impossible to us that he, a Christian of resumably deep faith, had grown so desperate and despondent. But apparently he had.

Although I cannot see myself ever making such a choice (as perhaps he couldn't either), I can understand how people can become so despairing of life. The disappointments, the tragedies, the hurts and pains, the frustrations,

the sense of betrayal, helplessness and futility — any and all of these are experienced by nearly everyone at some time or another. Furthermore, as we get older, we find that we have been subjected to more and more of these experiences.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Sometimes, when they come upon us, we have sufficient support to meet them — loving families, supportive neighbors, a caring church, concerned fellow workers, good health, money in the bank and so forth. But there are those of us who find that our challenges are greater than our visible means of support or that our once-adequate resources have been dissipated.

There have been a few times in my life when I have felt that way. But, it is precisely then that I have always discovered, eventually at least, an invisible means of support, finding thus a hope that saw far beyond the apparent hopelessness of my present circumstances. I particularly remember the prayer that St. Theresa of Avila prayed repeatedly: "My God and my all!; my God and my all!" By these

words, this great saint acknowledged that ultimately there is no other reality for us but God. When I pray these words, I see myself and God and nothing else: no home, no friends, no job, no possessions, no problems, no dangers — nothing, but God and me. My home will some day belong to someone else; my friends will move away and die (as some already have); my job will some day be over and there will come a day when I will no longer write this column; I will take no more trips, no more walks, eat my last food and have opened my last piece of mail! Only God will remain.

IN THE END

Furthermore, I know that, although many good causes have failed, many good people have died unfulfilled, and have many hopes will not have been realized, still, in the end, God's will and purpose will be fulfilled — and this is what really matters. I will no longer care that the dollar is weak, that the Cowboys have lost, and that they're raising taxes again. God's purpose alone will prevail.

If the end is secure, I can thus find the faith and strength to persevere in times of great stress and distress. I will be able to say with Paul: "in everything God works for good with those who love him" (Romans 8:28), realizing that even in the midst of tragedy, God is working towards his unalterable purpose. Knowing that, I can also confess my reliance upon his invisible support and say: "For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor power, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

NOTE: Rev. Althouse will lead a 9-day tour to the Holy Land, March 11-20, 1988. If interested write him at: First United Methodist Church, Ross & Harwood Sts., Dallas, TX 75201.

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