

Farm Philosophy

By
Newton Bair

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Saturday night has always been a kind of special night, especially for common working people. It marks the very end of the week, and if it has been a particularly hard one, here's our chance to unload the burden and get ready for a fresh start.

In bygone days, Saturday night was celebrated with the ritual of the weekly bath. A whole week's accumulation of whatever, was abolished at one good scrubbing. Of course, in summer we might have had several opportunities to skinny-dip in the crick after a hot day in the sun. A cake of Ivory soap could be shared by everybody the whole length of the swimming hole without sinking. But in winter, the weekly bath sufficed, and did little harm to our health. A change of underwear and clean socks in the middle of the week, and the company was at least bearable.

Summertime was the time for Sunday School Picnics and "Festivals" Every Denomination and

organization held a summer "Festival" on a Saturday evening. The Lutherans and Grangers held theirs at the Community Grounds, where there were buildings and conveniences. The Methodists and Church of God used the playgrounds along the Yellow Breeches at Lisburn. One fire company used the Ball Park, another held their annual shindig in Trimmers meadow (If the cows hadn't messed up the parking area too much). Others were staged in a favorite patch of shady woods, which had to be cleared of brush and poison ivy prior to the event.

They all featured Chicken Corn Soup, boiled in large open kettles over a wood fire, brim full of the summers fattest hens and fresh sweet corn from the family corn-patch. Watermelon slices of the face washing kind, ice cream cones for a nickel, and a whole bag full of Tootsie Rolls and licorice sticks for a dime. Little kids marched, and old ladies fanned their free funeral parlor fans to the beat of the local High School Band,

oomped-pa'ing Sousa and Berlin. The men congregated in the shade, sucking on Sarsaparilla and swapping tall tales. Who knows what the unattached young couples were doing;-- there were lots of trees for privacy? It all blended together for an event that could wipe out all the aches and pains of the past week.

Winter time Saturday nights were not all that dull either. After all the kids were properly scrubbed and brushed, it seemed only fitting that the whole family could ride along into town for the week's groceries. That wasn't too exciting in itself, but it often led to more adventurous events, like a Tom Mix movie at the Majestic Theatre. Before the Great Bust of 1929, we got pretty chummy with Buser Keaton, Charlie Chaplin, Laurel & Hardy, and the Keystone Kops. Nobody could ever top the performance of Tom Mix. Then there was a period of several years in the early 1930's that we had to be content with reading the Katzenjammer Kids, and Maggie and Jigs. Movies were a luxury we couldn't afford.

Saturday was also Market day. The week's production of butter was packed in the ice chest, the celery dug from the trench and washed, turnips and potatoes sorted and packed in wooden crates, and the lilacs and peonies bunched and tied. This was Mama's day, even if it did begin at 4:30 AM and lasted 'til long after sundown. She ruled over the preparation of the market produce as well as the stall in the Broad Street Market. We couldn't have survived without her master hand in the art of merchandising everything that could be produced, picked, and packed on the farm.

Saturday night is still a special night. It means no studying for the scholars, and a night out for parents if they can find a "sitter" For the young and free, it's the favorite time for dating.

For most of us however, it precludes the Day of Rest, when everything we worked for last week takes on new meaning at Sunday School, or singing in the Church Choir, or just meditating on the Sunday Sermon.



Laurie Frederick of New Hope, Pa., left, shows a young volunteer how to milk a cow.

Farmers Educate City Adults, Children

SOUTHAMPTON, PA. — The Young Cooperators are again educating city children and adults alike this summer at the Philadelphia Zoo.

These young farmers, members of Atlantic Dairy Cooperative, are hosts of a special demonstration every Sunday at noon in the Children's Zoo. They show visitors how to milk the zoo's cow, while explaining the milking process.

They also answer questions about dairying and life on the farm and distribute farm literature. In sharing information with their

audience, they explain, for example, how a cow converts feed, water and time to produce wholesome, nutritious milk.

Since 1977, the Young Cooperators have served as hosts of this popular program at the zoo, which is sponsored by Atlantic Dairy Cooperative and Dairy Council Inc. of Southampton.

Atlantic Dairy Cooperative represents 4,100 dairy farm families in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

Guinea Pigs Make "Cow Models"

Guinea pigs make nice cow 'models' and are providing clues that will help dairy farmers maintain good milk production in their herds, University of Missouri-Columbia dairy scientists reported this week.

"Because the guinea pig is so small and has such a short lactation, we can monitor its milk composition in three weeks instead of the 10 months it would take us to study the same cycle in a cow," said Ralph Anderson.

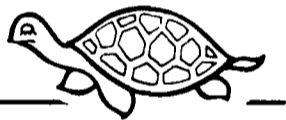
In a paper presented to the American Dairy Science Association, Anderson and Ibrahim

Wahab told how they used guinea pigs to study "markers" during the animal's milking period.

"We've seen a change in the concentration of these markers as the animal's milk production declines," Anderson said.

"By studying the factors involved in that decline, we are learning things that can be applied directly to dairy cows. By understanding that biochemical process, we could alter feed rations, engineer genes or give cows drugs that would help maintain a good level of milk production throughout gestation."

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