



OPINION

The Dairy Princess Program

Back when George Leader was governor of Pennsylvania, the 79th Guernsey National Convention met in Philadelphia, and the Honymooners kept TV audiences laughing-- the first milk maid was crowned in Pennsylvania. We now call them dairy princesses but ever since that first attempt to use individuals from dairy farms as spokespersons for the dairy industry a significant contribution has been made by the dairy princess program.

Dairy princesses at the county and state level go into the marketplace and meet consumers of milk in grocery stores. And they go into the media to proclaim the dairy story. In addition, they represent the one program that all the dairy promotion groups can support. This is of special significance since a lot of discussion goes into which promotional group has the

best logo, slogan or advertising campaign. But each promotional group lays down its differences to support the princess program. That's good.

However, this broad farm organization of support does create one problem for the princesses. When you look over the schedule of a dairy princess, you see that a good number of appearances are made at farmer meetings. This is done in appreciation for their support, of course. But what would happen if each farm organization who usually invites the dairy princess to sit at the head table would extend the option for her to attend an extra consumer event instead. Certainly we would miss a lot of charisma at our farm banquets. But we might give our well-worked dairy princesses more opportunity to tell our dairy story to the people who buy our milk and products. It's just a thought.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Understand Persistent Weed Problems

Just how persistent do we have to be in order to control weed problems? Well, the answer to this question comes from weed scientists who ran germination tests on weed seeds.

They report that 29% of Johnson-grass seed germinated after being buried for 3 years; morning glory 74% after 5 years; pigweed 66% after 40 years and dock 52% after 50 years. They further reported that 51 of 107 species tested still had live seeds after 20 years.

The reason these seeds remain in the soil for such a long period without sprouting is apparently related to environmental conditions. According to weed experts, some seeds need just the right combination of moisture, temperature, and nutrients before they will germinate. This explains why we may suddenly be faced with a

weed problem we thought was cured several years ago.

To Manage Poultry House Equipment

General management of poultry house equipment is important in maintaining a comfortable environment for chickens and turkeys. Defective equipment should be repaired or replaced promptly, especially if it is involved with the delivery of feed or water to the birds.

Rusty or bent cages will allow some birds to escape and may trap or injure other birds. It can also cause an increase in cracked egg shells. All sharp edges on the poultry equipment must be removed to avoid injuries. Rusty and deteriorating feed bins are another problem; they allow moisture to seep into the feed, resulting in mold and sick birds.

To Practice Strict Sanitation

Livestock and poultry producers must take a special effort to prevent contagious diseases. Many of these infections are brought home by the owner, or with the purchase of a new arrival. There are a number of infections that can be spread very easily from farm to farm.

In this part of the country, where the density of poultry and livestock is so great, producers should be alert to the possibility of spreading diseases. When returning from another farm, or public place, dif-

ferent clothes and footwear should be used. Stray dogs, cats and wild birds should be controlled as much as possible. New purchases should be segregated and tested before mixing with the home herd or flock. In many cases vaccination should go along with very strict sanitation practices. Every producer should give attention to the prevention of disease through good management and the use of good sanitation practices.

To Clean Pastures Before Turning Animals On Them

A careful check of pastures before turning cows into them can be time well spent. Trash, broken glass, and wire may produce bad udder and foot injuries. So remove or bury the debris.

Nails sticking through boards may produce serious puncture wounds in feet. Old farm implements should be hauled away; cows seem unable to resist stepping through old discs or harrows, often with bad results.

Fertilizer and fertilizer bags are deadly; especially those containing nitrates. Cows will eagerly kill themselves eating it.

In spite of laws, we still have a few people who will pitch a bag of junk out of their cars while they drive along our highways. A walk through your pasture fields before turning your cows out, is time very well spent.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, April 16

Little International Livestock Expo, Ag Arena, University Park, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Northwestern PA Beekeepers Workshop, Northwestern REC Bldg., Cambridge Springs, 9:30 a.m.

Feeder Lamb Sale, 10:00 a.m., Hickory Hill Farms, Delaware Research Center, West of Cheswold on route 42.

37th Annual Delaware State Grange Scholarship Dinner, Capital Grange Hall, Dover, DE, 6:30 p.m. Call 302/734-4653.

Maryland State Dairy Bowl, University of Maryland.

Tuesday, April 19

Demonstration of DHIA Records Access on PSU Computer, Bird-in-Hand Restaurant, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 21

Northeast PA Regional Beekeepers Short Course, Grace Episcopal Church, Honesdale, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., hive inspection 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Spring Pre-Fair Grange Meeting, Stanton Grange, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 22

Rabbit Conference, PSU 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Short Course Office, 814/865-8301.

Biodynamics As Applied to Commercial Vegetable Production and Home Gardening, David King Farm, Rt. 372, Quarryville, for information, call

609/786-2777.

PSU Dairymen's Club Annual Meeting, Elks Club, State College.

Saturday, April 23

Bradford Co. Holstein Tour, 7:30 a.m. Towanda Plaza.

PSU Dairy Expo, Ag Arena State College, 8:00 a.m.

Maryland State Jersey Sale, Sunset View Farms, Uniontown, MD. Contact James Stoneiseifer 301/756-6640, 11:30 a.m.

Cook College Field Day, New Brunswick, NJ.

Biodynamics As Applied To Commercial Vegetable Production and Home Gardening, Cinnamon, New Jersey, for information, call 609/786-2777.

Monday, April 25

Waverly Invitational Jersey Sale,

Frederick Co. Fairgrounds, Clearbrook, VA, 11:00 a.m.

Poultry Meeting, Farm & Home Center, 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Steve Combs, 295-8737.

Tuesday, April 26

Spring Homemaker's Day, Stanton Grange, 10:00 a.m. Tickets \$9. Contact Diana Mack, 201/788-1342.

Wednesday, April 27

International Horticulture Conference, Willow Valley.

Thursday, April 28

Pennsylvania Poultry Federation Banquet, Hershey Convention Center, Hershey, 5:30 p.m. social, 7:00 p.m. dinner.

Friday, April 29

Washington Co. Holstein Calf Sale, Washington Co.

FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Editor,

As in Lancaster east area, the farming region so it follows in Morgantown - Churchtown and the area east of the Goat Path; the New Holland, East Earl area, and farm region will be taxed by divine methods to exploit the Lancaster - Chester - Berks county area or tourist trap attractions.

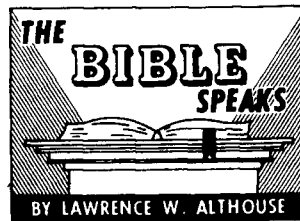
The limits of utilities (public service) and land use based strictly on \$ values disregarding the farms, may well be an adopted concern of

the farm media.

The traffic suggested, from about 3,100 vehicles per day to nearly 80,000 when the project (New Morgan) is finished, is erroneous in itself; much less the erosion, surface water run off - destroyed bridges, etc., now in evidence even before New Morgan.

To open up this Eastern Lancaster County area will surely enhance the goat path and other now put on hold throughways

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NOT WITH ANGELS!
April 17, 1988

Background Scripture: Hebrews 1 through 2.

Devotional Reading: Colossians 1: 15-20.

During the year of 1987 I taught in our church some courses on the religions — namely Islam and Buddhism. In preparing to teach these courses, I became once again admiring to some of the teachings and practices of these two religions. This opportunity helped me to recall again an early persuasion that all of the major religions of the world provide some revelation of the One God. I do not think it simplistic to say "We all believe in one God."

THE STAMP OF GOD

At the same time, I hasten to add that, while I believe there is truth in all or most religions, my study of other faiths helps to reinforce my conviction that the best and truest picture of God we can ever have is the one we get through Jesus Christ our Lord. Although in another faith I can catch a glimpse of God, in the person of Jesus Christ I can see as much of God as a human being can possibly see.

That's why the Letter to the Hebrews is so profound to me: "In many and various ways God spoke

of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son..." (1:1,2). And this Son "reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature..." (1:3). The writer of Hebrews recognizes that there are many roads to God, but there is one road above all other roads: through Jesus Christ. The most that can be said about God is what we experience in Him.

LOWER THAN THE ANGELS

Not only does Jesus bring God closer to us, he also brings us closer to God. The writer of Hebrews says, "But we see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels..." (2:9) And again: "...he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God..." (2:17). So, because he became like us, "he is able to help those who are tempted" (2:18). There is nothing esoteric or occult about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Instead of theories about the heavens, its focus is on this world where one is confronted by human-size concerns.

This, then, is a message from God to the masses, not the elite. "For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking" (2:5). And again: "For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned..." (2:16). There's nothing wrong with angels, but you and I live in the here-and-now of life on this planet earth and that is where the gospel must be lived out every day of our lives.

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