



OPINION

The Figures Make The Case

The public's increased awareness of the high source of iron and the flavorful nutrition in red meat has been accomplished, at least in part, done with the beef checkoff monies. That's good for the beef and veal producers. But many dairyman forget that they produce beef and veal as a second cash crop too. In fact, the Beef Referendum should interest dairy producers because about 20 percent of the beef market is dairy livestock.

So even though dairy farmers worry first about the price of milk, they should be in tune with what is happening in the market for beef and veal as well. In a nutshell, higher beef prices make higher cull cow prices. John Cope, Cumberland County dairyman, notes that the price for beef has increased from 39 cents per pounds to 52 cents per pound. That means the average value of a dairy animal has increased about \$250-\$300. For a farm with a 60-cow herd, that translates into a \$15,000-\$18,000 increase in average net worth. Cope figures he receives ten dollars return for every dollar he invests in the beef checkoff program.

increased 4-5 times in the last few years. Chuck Schilling, Petersburg, says the dollar checkoff is only a one percent investment in the calves he sells at 100 pounds. "A few years ago I was lucky to clear \$15-\$20 after paying my trucking costs," Schilling says. "Today it's \$100."

Granted, every cent of these increases can not be attributed to the checkoff, but the dollar investment per animal has helped to expand consumer awareness of the good qualities of beef. In the last two quarters alone, consumption per person has increased. This, in spite of the low cattle numbers and the higher retail prices.

No one would want to do anything to stifle the momentum that has helped position beef as a healthy and integral part of the American diet. This means that producers must continue to improve genetics in their animals and develop products that meet today's consumers' demands. Then they must let the consumer know through advertising and public relations that these products are available. The numbers make a positive case for a yes vote on the beef referendum to be held May 10 in your local county agent's office.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Practice Pesticide Safety
Pesticides are very important to our highly efficient agriculture. When used as directed, they repay our growers with higher, better quality yields at minimal risk to our safety and health.

*It's important to choose the correct pesticides and application equipment for your particular problem.

*Be sure to read and follow the label directions. Make sure all co-workers do the same.

*Without fail, use the recommended personal protective equipment to prevent harmful contact with chemicals.

*Mix accurately and carefully. Clean up spills. Return unused materials to safe storage.

*Triple rinse and drain empty containers into the spray tank.

*Clean the equipment when you have finished. Don't smoke or eat until you have washed and changed clothing.

*Store pesticides in their original labeled containers in a locked cabinet.

Let's have a safe growing and harvesting season this year.

To Prepare For Soybean Planting

Soybeans should be planted in warm moist soil. A thermometer will help you decide when is the best planting date. Special bayonet type thermometers work very well.

The ideal temperature is about 62°F. The reading should be taken at about 8:00 a.m. when the soil temperature is stabilized. The thermometer should be inserted at least two inches in the soil.

Many people planting soybeans will either end up with too many plants per acre or too few. This will happen because they will use the pounds per acre philosophy which won't work for soybeans. Because soybean seed differs greatly in size, this also means they differ greatly in number of seeds per

Twelve years ago there were 1.85 million farms with cattle. Today that number has decreased to 1.39 million farms.

In the late '70's, Americans spent 2.71 percent of their income on beef. Now those same consumers spend merely 1.79 percent on our product. Statistics show that for each 1/10 percent change, a \$3.00 per hundredweight is reflected in the price received for finished cattle.

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... pound. For example, one variety may average 2,100 seeds per pound while another variety averages 3,100 seeds per pound... that's a difference of 1,000 seeds per pound. So, if you plant a bushel of seed with 85% germination, that's a difference of about 48,000 plants per acre.

The only way to plant beans is by seeds per foot of row. If a grain drill is used, three beans per foot of row is plenty. If a 30 inch corn row is used 8 to 9 beans per foot is about right.

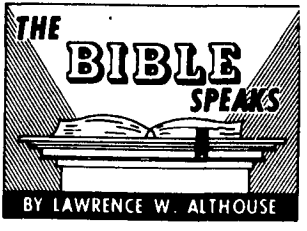
To Check Farm Ponds

Many ponds are showing both algae and weed infestation build-up and as the weather warms up, these pond plants will begin to grow. Permits are needed in order to use the proper material, and to protect livestock downstream from the pond. Before any ponds are treated in Pennsylvania with any chemical or fertilizer, the owner should obtain a permit from the

Pennsylvania Fish Commission. Application for the permit is available from the Pennsylvania Waterway Patrol Office or from our Penn State Cooperative Extension Office.

To Inspect Lightning Rod Systems

The "rumble season" is upon us... I'm referring to lightning and thunder. Just a reminder that we are in the thunderstorm season and buildings that have rods should be protected, that is if the rods are connected and free of obstructions. We urge owners of rodded buildings, especially barns, to inspect them closely and remove all items that will stop the flow of the electrical bolt. In many cases straw, hay or bird nests might be between the rod and the building and cause a fire. Also, be sure the rods go into moist soil and are well grounded. A close inspection of the rod system will assure the protection that is needed.



NOBODY, BUT JESUS

May 1, 1988

Background Scripture: Hebrews 4:14 through 7:28.

Devotional Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.

"Nobody knows de trouble I's seeh," croons the old Negro spiritual. There are lots of times when many of us could well make that our personal theme song. Often it does seem that our problems, our disappointments, our sorrows, and our temptations are unique and unequalled. Nobody, anywhere, at any time has experienced what we have.

That's the way it seems; but, if we are truly observant of the world about us and honest about what we see, we know that our suffering, our sorrows and our worries are not all that unique. If my illness is painful, I can always find someone whose illness is considerably more painful. If I have been let down by someone else, I can find in the lives of others betrayals that are even more painful. If I have been disappointed with some of life's twists and turns, there are always others around me who have even greater cause to be disappointed. Even if I suffer the loss of a loved one, I find that that is a universal experience from which no one is spared.

MORAL TOXIC WASTE

Very often it seems that if we are in any way unique, it must be in that secret moral level that is largely hidden from the eyes of others. These are the temptations that bedevil us, that keep coming back again and again, no matter how hard we struggle to shut them out of our consciousness. These are the secret sins of hidden thoughts, whose depravity and horror only

we can know. These are the "forbidden" thoughts and images that pop into our consciousness. 'Nobody knows...' and we are profoundly grateful that they cannot know.

So, what can we do with this spiritual garbage, this moral toxic waste? If we let it accumulate in our consciousness, it becomes an unbearable burden. If we shove it under the rug of our unconscious, it continues to fester and rot our spirits, even though we may not be consciously aware of it. If we look for someone who can "haul it away" for us, we may find that there is no one with whom we can entrust it. Sometimes our guilt, our despair is so great that we find it difficult to share with a counselor or confess to a pastor/priest. No one could possibly understand us and what we're carrying around inside.

HE UNDERSTANDS

"Nobody but Jesus," says the spiritual. That's why the writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews likes to refer to Jesus as our "great high priest." Jesus alone "knows" all that we have known. He understands because he himself has stood under the same proscription of being human. "For we have not a high priest," says Hebrews, "who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are." (Hebrews 4:15).

Hebrews finishes this assurance with a sobering thought: "... yet without sinning." Jesus knows both the limitations and the potentials of our humanity, for he experienced both. He understands what we are and what we can be. Thus his perfection does not disqualify him to be our high priest, the one who above all others knows what we know and even more. So, "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (4:16).

Whenever we are feeling that "Nobody knows...", let us remember that life-saving qualification: nobody but Jesus!

Farm Calendar

- Saturday, April 30**
Brown Swiss Mid-Atlantic Calf Sale, 12 noon, Frederick Fairgrounds, Frederick, MD.
- Monday, May 2**
State Grange Banquet, Penn Harris, Camp Hill.
- Tuesday, May 3**
Berks-Schuylkill Christmas Tree Meeting, PSU Schuylkill Haven Campus, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, May 7**
Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, Howard Co. Fairgrounds, 7 p.m. West Friendship, MD.
- Monday, May 9**
PA County Agent's Spring Meet-

- ing, Keller Center, University Park
- Tuesday, May 10**
Beef Referendum Voting Day at all county extension offices
- Wednesday, May 11**
Hunterdon Wine Growers Meeting, Extension Center, Flemington, New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 14**
Christmas Tree Growers Short Course, Cook College, Brunswick, NJ. Contact 201-932-9271.
- 4-H Dairy Fitting & Showing Workshop, Smithdale Farm, Shippensburg.

FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Editor:
"Whether we are Dairyman, Cattlemen, or Veal Producers, the challenge remains the same. Promote your product lest you lose your share of the market to someone who believes in what they are selling more than you believe in yourself."
Nearly 12 years have gone by since I wrote to the Editor of this paper with the above highlights. At

that time we were also voting on a self-help beef check-off program. What has happened to our industry in those twelve years? At that time beef consumption per person was 89 lb. and poultry consumption was 37 lb. Today, beef consumption per person has decreased to 77 lbs. and poultry has increased to nearly 53 lbs. per person.

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