



OPINION

This Makes You Think

An Ephrata beef farmer made a significant statement this week that makes you think. This farmer is the kind of guy who would stay out of public view and controversy at all possible costs. He is a good farmer and a conscientious family man. He finishes about 101 to 110 steers at a time and sells them at local markets.

This year he sold all but 21 of his steers prior to the beef referendum. The steers he sold up to about three weeks ago averaged \$78.35. Last week the remaining 21 head averaged \$68 with several selling as low as \$63. With astonishment in his voice, this farmer said, "It's absolutely incredible that the market could drop \$10 in 2 weeks time."

And since this farmer opposed the check-off he couldn't help think that if the beef referendum had not been taken until July 11 the price may have been held up long enough that he could have sold all his steers at the high price.

Of course the experts say, the price drop is because of the drought. They say farmers have evaluated the feed situation and have rushed excess cattle to market. But we've only heard about the drought in the popular press the last several weeks. At corn planting time we thought we had too

much rain. So these farmers must have made some really quick decisions in the past two weeks to market enough extra dairy and beef cattle to depress the market \$10.

In addition, we already have an extremely low number of beef cattle in the national herd. And since the "buy-out", dairy cow numbers are not that excessive. But the best proof that excess numbers of cattle have not gone to market in the last several weeks can be found in the market reports. For example, the Lancaster Weekly Market Report shows 4100 head of cattle moved on May 28, the week we reported that the beef referendum had passed. On June 25, the week our Ephrata farmer sold his last steers, after the market made its tremendous drop, 3400 cattle were reported moved in Lancaster County. That's less, not more.

Maybe the beef market's fall is due to post referendum let-down as this Ephrata farmer believes. Maybe it's the weather. Or the speculators in Chicago. Or all of the above. Whatever the reason, farmers may be pardoned if they consider these market moves incredible. The situation makes anyone who loves farming stand back and think.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Be Aware of Feeding New Grain

The barley harvest is completed much earlier this year and soon farmers may be considering using this new grain in their feeding program. Feeding new grains to livestock is possible, under very careful management. If fed in too large amounts, digestive disorders such as bloating and scouring may occur. We suggest that the grain be allowed to go through a two week curing period before being fed. Then it should be included into the grain ration at a slow rate -- 10 to 20%.

Barley is a popular livestock feed and is a good substitute for corn. In a week or two wheat will be ready and may also be fed with care. Again, it should be allowed several weeks to cure before feed-

ing. Wheat is not used as much for feeding purposes because of the digestive problems. Smaller amounts in the ration, compared to barley, are suggested. Barley and wheat can be used as livestock feeds, but need special care when mixing in livestock rations.

To Use Caution When Shipping Hogs

During very hot weather we must be very careful when shipping hogs. Losses do occur because of careless hauling during hot weather.

There are ways to prevent these losses. Whenever it's possible, have these hogs to market early or late in the day -- when it's coolest. Avoid mid-day or early afternoon trips. That's when temperatures are the worst.

While the hogs are being loaded onto the trucks, take things easy. Don't hurry them. If you do, they'll just become overheated. And, to make sure they can be comfortable in the truck, use wet sand for bedding. Don't use straw or other materials that hold heat and fail to help cool the animals.

Once the animals are loaded, start right then for the market -- and go directly to the market without stopping. Take these few precautions and you'll market all your hogs instead of just some of them.

To Control Canada Thistle

Canada thistles are listed as a noxious weed in Pennsylvania; this means they should be con-

trolled and not allowed to go to seed. Too often we see what some people call "summer snowflakes" floating through the air; these are not snowflakes but thistle seeds. We should insist that these be mowed or sprayed to prevent seed formation.

Most townships have noxious weed ordinances to prevent the spread of Canada thistles and other noxious weeds. These ordinances should be enforced for the best interest of all farmers. You can spot spray with Banvel or Round-up for control. Be sure to follow all label instructions. We urge everyone to do something about this problem.

To Review

Insurance Coverage

For the past several decades the value of farm buildings and personal property have been on the increase. In order to cope with this situation we have frequently suggested that property owners adjust their insurance coverage so that replacement cost will be covered, rather than original cost. The same situation holds true with personal property as well as buildings. We are aware that some losses in the past have not been sufficiently covered with insurance and the farmer was the loser.

Unless the insurance program has been adjusted in the past few years, we suggest that your insurance agent be contacted for guidance.

Farm Calendar

- Saturday, July 1**
July is Ice Cream Month
- Tuesday, July 5**
Small Fruits Meeting, Ag Building, Tunkhannock, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 6**
Philadelphia Ice Cream Day, Independence Mall
- Eastern Junior Holstein Judging School, Columbia/Luzerne counties. Runs through the 7th.
- Northeast Forest Tree Conference, Penn State. Runs through the 8th.
- Huntingdon regional 4-H achievement day, Juniata Valley Elementary School.
- Thursday, July 7**
1988 Keystone Tour By Ciba-Geigy and FMC Corp., New Holland Community Park, 9:15 a.m.
- Centre County Bar-B-Que and Twilight Meeting, Bruce Ulmer Farm, 7:00 p.m.
- Row Crop Sraayer meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- AA Angus Breeders' Show, Center Hall. Runs through the 9th.
- Mercer Co. Feed Ration test, 4-H Park. Call extension agent 662-3141.

- Friday, July 8**
Western Junior Holstein Judging School, Armstrong/Indiana Counties, runs through the 9th, noon to noon.
- Mercer Co. Guernsey Ice Cream Festival.
- Saturday, July 9**
Schaefferstown Folk Festival, Alexander Schaeffer Farm.
- Saturday, July 9**
Ice Cream Day in Adams County, recreational park, Gettysburg, 2-8 p.m.
- Mercer Co. Holstein Club picnic, Lake Wilhelm, 1 p.m.
- Monday, July 11**
Dairy Laboratory Workshop, two week demonstration of all milk tests and includes tests to become PDA Dairy Lab Director.
- Tuesday, July 12**
PA Purebred Dairy Cattle Association, Judging school, Crawford County, 9 a.m., through the 13th.
- National meeting, Brown Swiss cattle breeder, Clock Tower Resort, Rockford, Ill.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
July 3, 1988

Background Scripture:
Exodus 12:1-27.

Devotional Reading:
Luke 22:14-20.

So long as there have been human beings on this planet, there have been religious rituals. And, so long as there have been religious rituals, there have been children asking why they should be expected to perpetuate rituals that seem to have no significance for the present.

This was the question which

- Lancaster Co. Fruit Growers Mtg., Brooklawn Farm, Neffsville, 7 p.m. geared to small fruits.
- Annual Baltimore County 4-H Fair, State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Md. 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., through the 16th.
- Wednesday, July 13**
Lancaster County Dairy Barn meeting, Lapps Valley Farm, New Holland.
- Thursday, July 14**
Bedford County Holstein Quality Sale, Bedford, 7 p.m.
- Mifflin County Holstein Club Picnic, Ed Glick Farm, Belle-vill, 7 p.m.

Moses anticipated when he instructed the people of Israel concerning the annual observance of the Passover. First, he charged them to "Observe this rite as an ordinance for you and for your sons forever." Then, he goes on to say, "And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' you shall say 'It is the sacrifice of the Lord's passover...'" (Exodus 12:24-27a).

NEVER FORGET

It was important, not only that Israel should perpetuate this rite, but also that each generation should fully understand why--that, by the grace of God, the people of Israel had been saved from the terrible plague by which the first born of Egypt were slain. The people must never forget that God has saved them for the sake of his purpose. Without his intervention, they never would have escaped their Egyptian bondage.

So, just as the Hebrews needed

- Oregon Dairy, Oregon, 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, July 15**
PA Association of Conservation District Director's meeting, State College, through the 16th.
- Saturday, July 16**
PA Angus Summer Field Day, Loysville (Perry)
- PA Ayrshire Field Day, Wentworth Farm, Quarryville, 10:30 a.m.
- Maryland Jersey Cattle Field Day, Frederick County Fairgrounds, MD, 10:30 a.m. Contact Stan Lutz at Ag Center, Westminster.

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to remember what God did for them in Egypt, so there are things in our own heritage that we must never forget. At the time when something very special happens, it seems we will never forget. We vow to remember the day forever. But, despite our good intentions, we often forget these great events and take for granted what they mean to us.

Often, that is the way it is when God has done something significant in our lives. We promise that we will always be grateful, but "always" is often short-lived. So we need some rituals and celebrations to remind us of what we must never forget --- Thanksgiving and our dependence upon God's bounty, the Fourth of July and our independence, Memorial Day and the people who have given their lives in the service of their country, and so forth.

REMEMBER WHY

Unfortunately, we sometimes are faithful in keeping the rituals and celebrations, but what we neglect is the passing on the "why" of it. Thanks giving becomes just another excuse for gorging ourselves; Independence Day is simply a "day off," an opportunity for picnics and outings. The purpose is not the keeping of a celebration, but remembering what is behind it. There are parts of our past that we must never forget, because they are so relevant for our present and significant for our future.

(Based on copyrighted Outlines produced by the Committee on the Uniform Series and used by permission Released by Community & Suburban Press)

Lancaster Farming
Established 1955
Published Every Saturday
At Record-Express Office Building
22 E Main Street
Lititz, PA 17543
— by —
Lancaster Farming, Inc.
A Steinman Enterprise
Robert G Campbell General Manager
Everett R Newswanger Managing Editor
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