



OPINION

When You're Hungry

Experts say the drought will have little effect on inflation. Most analysts believe the deepening crop damage in the nation's mid-section has added 0.2 to 0.5 percentage point to forecasts for consumer price inflation in 1988. This translates into an annual inflation rate this year of between 5.0 and 6.0 percent compared with 4.5 percent in 1987, according to Knight-Ridder, financial news.

Many economists play down the effects of inflation because as Carol Stone of Nomura Securities in New York put it, "Food is not a very large percentage of the consumer's budget." Analysts figure that while grains and oil seeds prices are rising, meat and poultry

prices are falling as animals are slaughtered to avoid higher feed costs. "Food and beverages account for 17.6 percent of the consumer price index," says Evelina Tainer, Economist at the First National Bank of Chicago.

What took our eye in these reports was not the inflation figures, but the fact that food was such a small part of consumer expenses. We can't help but wonder what would happen if grocery shelves became bare and consumers needed to spend 85 percent of their income on food, like they do in some other countries. It's easy to be against farmers when your belly is full. When you're hungry--?



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Keep Poultry Comfortable During Hot Weather

Ventilation is most important during hot, humid weather. During hot weather our broiler and larger houses need more air movement INSIDE the house. I would suggest placing circulating fans inside the house to move more air across the birds. This will definitely give relief. In weather reports it's known as the "chill" factor. If you move air at the rate of 500 c.f.m. across the birds, it will reduce the temperature -- to the bird -- by 10 degrees F.

I know if the temperature is 95 degrees F. outside, it will not be any cooler than 95 degrees inside, but the chill factor would make it feel like 85 degrees to the bird.

Another very important factor during hot weather is to ventilate the attics. The best way is to have an inlet at one end and an exhaust fan at the other end. If you don't move the air out of the attic, the temperature can rise to over 150 degrees F. This trapped hot air will eventually work down through the insulation and into the house.

To Graze Sudan and Sorghum Grasses Carefully

Some livestock producers plant sudan grass or one of the hybrid sorghum for extra summer pasture. These grasses have the ability to grow well during the heat of the summer. However, they should be managed carefully in order to prevent livestock poisoning.

When sudan is grazed or green-chopped before it is 18 inches

high, and if the sorghum hybrids are used before they are 24 to 30 inches high, there is danger of prussic acid poisoning. There is greater danger with the sorghum hybrids.

After the herd of flock has grazed the area, it should be clipped high, and then the regrowth allowed to reach the same length before using as fresh feed. Horses should not be allowed to graze or eat either of these two forage crops; it has been blamed for causing urinary bladder infections in equines.

Manage sudan grass and sorghums carefully for best results.

To Be Careful With Sprayers

Chemical weed killers are used quite frequently these days for controlling weeds. Many of these sprayers are used for other purposes. We have seen several cases of herbicide damage on tobacco and other crops. Most were due to improper sprayer cleaning before spraying the tobacco field. Chemical weed killers such as 2,4-D will stick to the sprayer equipment for years, unless soaked and washed with ammonia water and other strong detergents.

It is best to flush the sprayer and hoses with clean water first and finish with the ammonia solution. Use one pint of ammonia for every

25 gallon of warm water. Choose your cleaning area with great care. It is important to discharge the cleaning water where it will not contaminate water supplies, streams, crops or injure other plants. The driveway makes a good place.

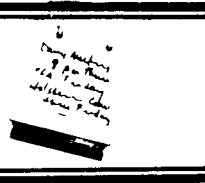
To Keep Dogs Under Control

The summer months increase outdoor activity with your dog. Keep in mind that a dog owner's responsibility is to keep their pet under control at all times. Free roaming dogs cause accidents, bite, damage property and can be a general nuisance. They also carry disease from farm to farm. Dogs are personal property and the owners are responsible for any damage caused by their pets.

Many dog related problems would be alleviated if owners were more aware of their responsibilities. All pet owners really need to have their dogs licensed, inoculated for rabies and kept under control. Remember, all dogs six months of age or older must be licensed. A license is an inexpensive means to identify your dog if it should stray. It also shows you care for your pet.

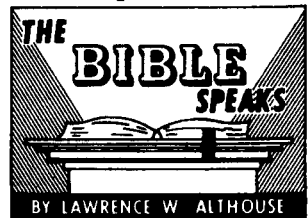
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Farm Calendar



- Saturday, July 9**
Schaefferstown Folk Festival, Alexander Schaeffer Farm
- Sunday, July 10**
Mercer Co. Holstein Club picnic, Lake Wilhelm, 1:00 p.m.
Ice Cream Day in Adams County, recreational park, Gettysburg, 2:00 to 8:00 a.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**
24th Annual Baltimore County 4-H Fair, State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Md. 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., through the 16th.
PA Purebred Dairy Cattle Association, judging school, Crawford County, 9:00 a.m., through the 13th.
- Lancaster Co. Fruit Growers Mtg., Brooklawn Farm, Neffsville, 7:00 p.m. geared to small fruits.
National meeting, Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders, Clock Tower Resort, Rockford, Ill.
- Wednesday, July 13**
Lancaster County Dairy Barn Ventilation meeting, Lapps Valley Farm, New Holland.
- Thursday, July 14**
Bedford County Holstein Quality Sale, Bedford, 7:00 p.m.
Mifflin County Holstein Club Picnic, Ed Glick Farm, Belleville, 7:00 p.m.
Lancaster County Dairy Barn Ventilation Meeting, Oregon Dairy, Oregon, 7:30
- Friday, July 15**
PA Association of Conservation District Director's meeting, State College, through the 16th.

- 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.
- Saturday, July 16**
PA Angus Summer Field Day, Loysville (Perry)
- Sunday, July 17**
Schuylkill County Holstein Picnic New York State and Southern Tier Ayrshire Club Field Day, Blue Meadow Farm, Oneonta, N.Y., 10:00 a.m.
- Monday, July 18**
Biotech Insect Management Conference, Boyce Thompson Institute, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., through the 20th.
MAMMA Annual Meeting, Stouffer Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore, through the 19th.
- Tuesday, July 19**
Pennsylvania Holstein Executive Committee Meeting, State College, 1:30 p.m.
Ice Cream Social, Capitol Steps, Harrisburg
- Wednesday, July 20**
Jefferson County Holstein Show, Sykesville, 9:00 a.m.
Western Pennsylvania Tillage Field Day, Robert Smith Farm, New Alexandria, 9:30 a.m.; contact the county extension office for information
Lycoming County Holstein Show, Hughesville, 10:00 a.m.
Pennsylvania Holstein Board of Directors Meeting, Holiday Inn, State College
- York County 4-H Dairy Roundup
- Thursday, July 21**
York County Holstein Show, York



IS IT BETTER TO SERVE THE EGYPTIANS?
July 10, 1988

Background Scripture:
Exodus 13:17 through 14:31.
Devotional Reading:
Exodus 15:1-10.

I'm often tempted to look down my nose a little at the Hebrews in their exodus from Egypt. Why did God choose to save these people and give them the promised land? Daily they demonstrated their lack of faith. They were complainers from the very beginning and, as we will see later, their fidelity to God was fragile at best.

Of course, none of us can afford to judge the Hebrews because we have never been in their circumstances. We have only the benefit of what someone has called "20/20 hindsight". Our concern should not be with the Hebrews and their lack of faith, but with the state and strength of our own faith. Is our own level of performance a shining example of faithful response to God's guidance?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO US?

The Hebrew people had good reason to fear the Pharaoh, whose will was law and whose armed might awesome. When, in the wilderness, they realized that Pharaoh and his forces were pursuing them,

they turned upon Moses: "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? (14:11) Isn't that our question when, in trying to follow God's will, we find that things get worse instead of better? We are all for being firm in the faith, so long as we are rewarded with good fortune.

Actually, although we have never experienced anything like the exodus, their situation is not totally foreign to us. There are times when we too are tempted to complain: "...it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than to die in the wilderness" (14:12). It would be better to keep our jobs, than to speak, out against injustice or dishonesty. It would be better to maintain our standing in the community than to take a moral position that is guaranteed to earn us opposition. Or would it be?
DOG, OR LION?

I remember reading in Winston Churchill's *History of the English Speaking Peoples*, during a time of persecution in the English church, a certain leader decided that "It is better to be a live dog than a dead lion." Lots of people still live by that questionable wisdom.

Just as I cannot make that decision for the people of Israel in their exodus, neither can anyone else make that decision for me--or you. We all want to be survivors; that's just human nature. Until or unless God comes to us as he did Moses, saying: "Tell the people of Israel to go forward!"

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