



OPINION

Pork Producers' Opportunity

Dairymen promote milk from dollars taken off their milk checks. The beef producers and vegetable farmers have recently voted to spend their money for product advertising. Now it's the pork producers chance to have a say in their future. On September 7 and 8 a referendum on whether to continue the national pork checkoff will be held. Voting will take place at the county extension offices during regular office hours.

In this case, the promotion and research program for hog producers will need a majority of yes votes from across the nation to be passed. Funding for the program that has been in effect on a trial basis comes from a checkoff of one-fourth of one percent on the market value of all feeder pigs, seed stock and market hogs. In addition, the same levy would be placed on all imported porcine animals, pork and pork products.

While the specific reasons for an up-turn in consumer acceptance of pork are hard to determine, Glen Grimes of the University of Missouri reports pork demand increased two to three percent in the first four months of 1988 after

climbing five percent in 1987. Grimes figures that put an extra six dollars per head in producers pockets.

The flagstaff of the present promotion has been "Pork, The Other White Meat". This promotion positions pork as fatless turkey and poultry meat.

In Pennsylvania the share of funds has been used to promote pork in Acme stores and to advertise during Penn State and Phillies games.

Pork producers must now decide if the cost is worth the return. And they must decide soon.

And they must vote on the issue to let their voice be part of the outcome of the referendum. After it's over, it's over.

There is no age limit on who can vote. Anyone who has raised hogs or pigs for sale in their name since November 1986 is eligible to vote. This includes 4-H, FFA and other youth swine projects.

We would hope a large number of hog producers will take the opportunity to be heard by ballot on this referendum. The results will have an impact on the hog industry for years to come.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Determine Fertilizer Needs

The early fall months are good times to do soil testing and learn what plant nutrients will be needed for the 1989 cropping season. When the plant nutrient needs are known for this fall, some of them can be applied to the soil, and others can be ordered. Be sure to include the nutrient value of manure when planning your fertilizer needs. The appropriate nutritive values of the different manures are listed on page 22 of the 1987-88 Agronomy Guide.

With fall application, the plants will have time to absorb some of the plant nutrients and strengthen it for the winter. This is especially true with alfalfa and some of the perennial grass crops. When soil tests are made in the fall, the land owner has more time to locate and deal for his lime and fertilizer needs.

To Prepare For Local Fairs

We are rapidly approaching the time for local Fairs. These times should be happy events — but once in a while they are not because planning was not done ahead of time. This is the time to take necessary precautions to help prevent the possibility of your taking disease to the Fair with your animals or bringing infection home to your farm.

Most Fairs require health charts and specific tests or vaccination for animals and poultry. Be sure to read the health requirements carefully. And, it doesn't hurt to be more strict than what the regulations may require.

Animals or poultry with any form of ailment should be left at home.

When animals or poultry leave the Fair and go home, it's important to have a place where you can isolate them and observe them closely for a period of time before returning them to their herdmates. If in doubt, consult your veterinarian for advice.

To Fertilize Alfalfa

The fall of the year, after the removal of the last cutting, is a good time to topdress existing alfalfa stands. The application of a

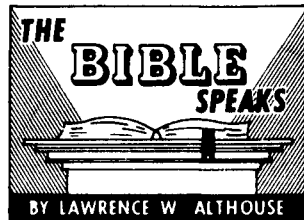
phosphorus-potash fertilizer (according to a soil test) in the fall will strengthen the alfalfa roots and result in higher yields next summer. Nitrogen should not be needed on established alfalfa stands because alfalfa is a legume and produces its own nitrogen. Some growers topdress with fertilizer in the fall and again after the removal of the first cutting in the spring.

This should result in maximum yields with a healthy stand. When alfalfa plants are well fed and treated for insect injury, they should be able to stand weather adversities. Alfalfa plants are heavy feeders on both phosphorus and potash. Unless these elements are replaced each year, the plants and yield will suffer.

To Be Aware Of Animals In The Garden

In the last two weeks, gardeners have been having more than their

share of animals (groundhogs, rats, mice, rabbits, raccoons, skunks, and possums) invading their gardens and eating cantaloupes, watermelons, corn and tomatoes, according to Bruce Hellerick, Extension Agent - Horticulture. Most gardeners would not mind if the animals ate one entire melon but tend to get very angry when they take one or two bites out of almost every melon in their patch. The problem is compounded by the dry weather. Since the wild berry and nut crops are very scarce, your garden looks even more inviting. Unfortunately, there is very little you can do to discourage these visitors. Here are a few things gardeners have tried with varying success: animal repellents, dried blood, tobacco dust, lime, twine dipped in kerosene, and human hair. Many people want to use some kind of bait. To my knowledge there are no materials labeled for this use.



Background Scripture:

Deuteronomy 32:48-52;34.

Devotional Reading:

Joshua 1:1-9.

One of the most inspiring moments of my several visits to the Holy Land was the trek to the top of Mt. Nebo in Jordan to watch the sun set on Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives. It was literally and figuratively a "golden moment" for me and my compatriots.

Mt. Nebo is the traditional site of Moses' look into the Promised Land across the Jordan River. Whether this is really where it happened, we don't know, but regardless it is an inspiring and appropriate spot to remember Moses' experience in which God says to him, "I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there" (Deuteronomy 34:4b). Looking northward, Moses could probably see the Sea of Galilee. To the south he could probably see the desert of Negev. If the day was really clear, he could probably see the Mediterranean in the west and the whole of the Jordan Valley.

If you go there today for sundown, you can see the sun gracing the spires of some of the churches on the Mount of Olives. That was probably the only difference in what I saw and what Moses saw, I saw Jerusalem, but he didn't. Yet, he actually saw more than I did. Moses saw the fulfillment of God's covenant with Israel. He saw it from afar and would not experience it himself, but he could see enough to know that God's promise would be fulfilled.

THE WRONG SIDE

So Moses died on the "wrong side" of the river. Instead of the Promised Land, he died in the land of Moab and was buried there. In a sense, it would seem that he died

before his work was complete. The people of Israel were also on the "wrong side" of the Jordan River. He had brought them to it, but he could not take them into it. Moses died, leaving his task to another. It would be Joshua who would complete what Moses had begun.

Still, we must realize that Moses' reputation was undiminished by the fact that he had not completed the task God had given him. The writer of Deuteronomy was still able to say: "And there has not arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, none like him for all the signs and the wonders which the Lord sent him to do in all the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land..." (34:10,11).

A SUCCESS?

The basic concern was not whether Moses was "successful, "but obedient and faithful. With one exception, Moses remained faithful. There were many times when he surely wanted to give up on this thankless job. The people were frequently disobedient and one wonders whether they ever stopped complaining. Still, Moses kept on through good times and bad. He was obedient and he left to God the question as to whether he was successful. He knew that another would have to take up his mantle and lead the people on to the end of their journey.

So it may be for many of us. We all would like to be successful, although most of us realize we're not sure what that means. But it is not difficult to know what it means to be faithful and that is something we can all achieve, if we want. If we're faithful to God and what he wants of us, we can leave "success" in his hands and it may well be that someone else will have to take up what we have not been able to conclude. The view from Mt. Nebo is enough for any of us and it only appears to be "the wrong side of the river."

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Farm Calendar

Saturday, August 27
Lancaster Co. 4-H Achievement Night, Farm & Home Ctr., 6:30 p.m. (All awards presented.)

Monday, August 29
South Central District Dairy Show, 9 a.m. Farm Show complex, Harrisburg.

Indiana County Fair, Indiana, through September 3.

West End Fair, Gilbert, through September 3.

Wattsburg Fair, Wattsburg, September 4.

Tuesday, August 30
Md. State Fair, Holstein 4-H FFA Show, Timonium

Centre County Holstein Show, Centre Hall Fairgrounds, 9:30 a.m.

Allentown Fair, Runs through September 5.

Jamestown Community Fair, Jamestown, through September 3.

Big Knob Grange Fair, Rochester, through September 5.

Allentown Fair, Allentown
Greenc-Dreber Sterling Fair, Newfoundland, through September 5.

Northumberland Conservation Meeting, Leon and Neal Wertz Farm, 2 1/2 mi. southeast of Riverside.

Wednesday, August 31
Somerset County "Touch of Class" sale, 7 p.m., Meyersdale. Great Stoneboro Fair, Stoneboro, through September 5.

Sullivan County Fair, Forksville, through September 5.

Bradford County Dairy Day, Troy Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.

Northumberland Conservation Meeting, Paul & Marvin Snyder Farm, 1/2 mi. north of Greenbrier.

Thursday, September 1
Cumberland Co. Holstein Sale, 7:30 p.m., Shippensburg Fairgrounds

South Mountain Fair, Arendtsville, through September 5.

Lackawanna Co. Vegetable Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Roy Thompson Farm.

Friday, September 2
Central District Dairy Show, Beaver Springs Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.

Wyoming County Fair, Tunkhannock

Saturday, September 3
Maryland Holstein Futurity, Timonium, 8 a.m.

Southwest District Dairy Show, Bedford Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.

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