



OPINION

Best Wishes New Princess

Once again, a new state Dairy Princess has been chosen to represent the dairy farms and dairy farm families in Pennsylvania. Kimberly Bonzo, Rochester, representing Beaver-Lawrence Counties, received the crown from retiring princess Becky Sonnen last Saturday evening in a pageant orchestrated to properly showcase the promotional efforts of the dairy princess program and create an emotional climax with the naming of the new princess.

Many individuals worked together to make the pageant a success. Jan Harding, princess director, had the young ladies ready to make their best possible impression on the judges. Grover Gouker did his usual fine job of master of ceremonies. To interview 40 contestants and move the program forward takes the expertise of a professional.

You could mention the coordinators, families of the princesses, the judges, the volunteers. Typical of the efforts put into the program through the year can be seen in the statistics racked up by the 1988 Blair County Dairy Princess, Jenny Sue Bigelow. During her reign last year, Sue drove 7,200 miles to attend 353 events. That's nearly an average of one per day. For her

efforts she received the Tina M. Shultz Memorial Award, set up to honor the Huntingdon County Dairy Princess of 1985-86, who served her county's dairy farm families while fighting a losing battle with cancer.

A look at the scrapbooks compiled by each county princess as a record of her year's activities also truly showed the amount of effort and creativity put into the dairy princess program. The precedents set by past princesses will give the new "class" something to strive for. But as retiring state princess, Becky Sonnen, said in her farewell address, each county can be proud of their new representatives. "They are a terrific group of young ladies to represent the dairy industry we love," Sonnen said.

We want to congratulate the new State Dairy Princess and the first runner-up, Tammy Sue Balthaser, Berks County, and second runner-up, Laurie Sterner, Montgomery County. And we want to congratulate all the new county dairy princesses and their alternates across the state. As Becky Sonnen so aptly said, "You are a terrific group of young ladies to represent the dairy industry we all love."

Yes, and best wishes, too!



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Fertilize Alfalfa Seeds

After the last cutting of alfalfa is removed, it is a good practice to topdress the field with a phosphorus-potash fertilizer. Many growers have been doing this for years with good results. The fall application permits time for the soil elements to reach the root zone of the plants and become available for next spring's growth. Well fertilized alfalfa fields will produce more top quality forage and will be able to withstand adversities much better. Also, after the removal of the first crop next spring, another application of fertilizer should be made. Research continues to show that a nitrogen application on established stands of alfalfa is not a good investment. Apply only the amount recommended by your soil test results.

To Prepare For Wheat Planting

Wheat is an important crop in many of our farming programs and the selection of good seed will result in a better crop next year. Due to some infection of Scab and Powdery Mildew in our winter wheat over the past several years, growers should be extra careful this fall by planting clean seed. Certified seed would be free of these problems. If you are planning to use homegrown seed, then do an extra good job of cleaning and treating. Vitavax 200 is a recommended fungicide for seed treatment. The fly-free date is either after the first killing frost or, in Southeastern Pennsylvania, October 10. Just a few reminders on planting wheat -- it should not be planted in the same field more often than once every 5 years; this time period will reduce the fungus carryover in the soil. Plow the field as early as you can, then disc and harrow to kill as many weeds as possible. It's also a good idea to harrow the field thoroughly the day of seeding.

KILE Jr. Livestock judging contest

PA Livestock Association annual meeting, Sheraton Harrisburg East Motel, 6 p.m. Reservation deadline is Oct. 1. Contact Herbert Shick, 215 285-6519.

Monday, October 10 KILE Keystone Stockman's contest

Lancaster County Poultry Health Seminar

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To Watch For Unwanted Guests

Now that the weather is getting cooler you may find some unwanted guests in your barn and home. You won't see them too often perhaps, but they're there. These guests in question are rats and mice. As the weather gets colder, they migrate from outdoors to indoors.

Are you aware that one rat can cost you \$28 a year, and that rats cause an estimated 25% of all farm fires, and that rats destroy about 20% of all crops planted each year. Rats have a litter every 30 days -- multiplying so rapidly a pair could have 15,000 descendants in a year's life span.

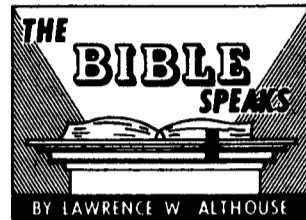
They kill small animals and chickens and also carry diseases to people and animals. Reasons enough to start a good rat control program.

To Protect Plants For The Winter

Plants with shallow roots such as azaleas, rhododendrons, mountain laurel and flowering dogwood need frequent watering. And it's a good idea to continue watering these plants on a regular basis until the ground freezes this fall.

A shallow-rooted plant that has most of its root system in the upper three to five inches of soil. Since this is the first layer to dry out, it's very important that these plants receive at least an inch of water each week through the season.

Also, the more water your plants can take up before the ground freezes, the better they will withstand the severe winter conditions. Keep in mind that once the ground does freeze, there will be no free water for the plants to take up. But even though the ground is frozen, that parts of the plant above the ground will continue to lose water.



ON YIELDING WILD GRAPES October 2, 1988

Background Scripture: Isaiah 6.

Devotional Reading: Matthew 4:17-22.

When I was a youth contemplating the ministry, our church was explicit in stipulating that no one be accepted as a candidate for the ministry unless he had received a "call" from God. It was generally understood that the candidate had to have had some kind of experience in which God's "call" was heard or felt in some way.

In time, we came to realize that God's "call" comes not only to the clergy, but to all of us. All of us are "called" to something because God has something for each of us to do, a purpose to fulfill. In other words, we all have a vocation ("calling") from God. The problem is not that God doesn't call each of us, but that so many of us don't listen to hear what God is saying; and, even if we do hear that "call," we may not answer it.

THE KING IS DEAD

Isaiah 6 is often called "the Call of Isaiah." One does not know if this was the first time he called Isaiah, but it is obvious that it is the first time Isaiah listened to that call and answered. Perhaps God had been calling Isaiah for some time and it is only in this incident that Isaiah responded.

Isaiah was in the temple for worship. He starts out noting that it was "the year that King Uzziah died" (6:1). Very likely, like many of his countrymen, Isaiah felt despondent over his death. King Uzziah's death was a tragic loss for the nation. I can't help remembering that the Sunday after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, record numbers of people were in

churches all across the land. I remember that on that Sunday there were quite a few people present in my worship service whom I had never seen there before. It was a time of national tragedy and people flocked to the churches for reassurance. Sometimes, it is only when something tragic or disappointing happens to us that we can open ourselves to God's "call."

It is important for us to note that, when it seemed Isaiah and the nation were stricken with this sense of loss, the prophet-to-be was able to find an exalted vision of God's majesty: "In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up..." (6:1). Often when we are low down, it is then that we are able to be lifted up with a realization of God's glory.

WHOM SHALL I SEND?

What is the natural result of such an experience: a deep sense of humility. We can understand Isaiah's response: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips..." (6:5). I am reminded of the story about the woman who went to a counsellor to get help for her "nerves." After a number of sessions that seemed to go nowhere, the doctor wrote on his prescription pad: "Take a trip to Niagara Falls."

When the woman asked the reason for this strange prescription, the counsellor replied that what she needed was to take "a long, lingering look at something bigger than yourself!" Actually, that's what all of us need and that's what worship is supposed to be all about.

Isaiah's humble contrition opened the door for his forgiveness: "Your guilt is taken away, and your sin forgiven." But forgiveness is not the end of it all, for, like Isaiah, when we have been cleansed there comes a voice to each of us, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" (7:8). When at last we hear that call, it is time for us to answer it as Isaiah did: "Here I am! Send me!"

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Farm Calendar

Saturday, October 1
Maryland Beef Tour '88, contact Robert D. Halman 301/398-0200.

Sunday, October 2
Seventh Annual Heritage Celebration, Berks Co. Heritage Center, Reading, noon until 6:00 p.m.

Monday, October 3
Conservation Directors Annual Conference, Guthrie Inn, Sayre National 4-H week

Tuesday, October 4
Atlantic Dairy Co-op Meeting, District 35, White Horse Fire Hall, 11:00 a.m.

Eastern Milk Producers Annual Meeting, Syracuse, runs through October 5

Atlantic Dairy Coop District 36 annual meeting, 7 p.m. Kauffman Center.

Atlantic Dairy Coop Cumberland County local of District 16 annual meeting, 7 p.m. at penn Township Fire Hall, Hunsdale.

Wednesday, October 5
Western Pennsylvania Sale of Stars, Farm Show grounds, Butler, noon

Thursday, October 6
Bucks County Barn Meeting

Keystone International Livestock Exhibition, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg. Runs through October 10

Lancaster County 4-H Leaders Banquet, Farm & Home Center, 6:30 p.m.

Atlantic Dairy Coop Perry County Local of District 16 annual meeting, 7:15 p.m., Messiah Lutheran Church, Ellitsburg.

Atlantic Dairy Coop, Central York and Delta Locals of District 24 annual meeting, 7 p.m., Winterstown Fire Hall.

Wayne Co. solid waste disposal meeting, Wayne Co. Court House, Honesdale; 8 p.m.

Mercer County Fall Feeder Calf Sale, Mercer Livestock Auction, Mercer, 7 p.m.

Friday, October 7
Pennsylvania Livestock Association Annual Meeting, Shearton Harrisburg East Motel, 6:00 p.m. Reservation deadline is October 1, contact Herbert Shick, 215/285-6519.

Maryland Egg Council Banquet, Martins Westminster, Westminster, Maryland.

UNCLE OTIS, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME OUT WITH THE HARVEST — I JUST HOPE THAT WE CAN GET THE CROPS IN BEFORE THIS OLD COMBINE WEARS OUT



IF I WERE YOU I'D WORRY ABOUT GETTING THE CROPS IN BEFORE...



...THE OLD COMBINE OPERATOR WEARS OUT



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