



OPINION

Only Half The Job Done

The effects of the drought are not past when you consider costs related to the production of milk on our dairy farms. In fact, as we approach late winter when feed supplies, especially hay are depleted, production costs soar.

In one report from Wisconsin, fear was expressed that dairy-men who haven't stocked adequate hay supplies by now, will have trouble obtaining the forages they need at any price. Many of these dairymen plan to feed out their hay supply and then send their herds to slaughter.

In Pennsylvania, dairymen have been receiving a \$1.05 per hundred drought surcharge to help them cope with the increased costs. Unfortunately, this relief is scheduled to end on February 28, just when the real crunch begins to show up on the purchased feed costs. With good alfalfa hay selling at local markets for more than \$120 per ton, it's easy to argue for this drought relief to continue on into next summer when a new crop of feed can be harvested.

That's what dairymen and their farm cooperatives and organizations were doing in Harrisburg when the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board held hearings this week. The increase in milk price first initiated in August is still needed to offset higher feed costs due to the drought, farmers said.

"We believe that this increase must be maintained to protect the livelihood of Pennsylvania dairy producers," said William Sturges, executive director, Pennsylvania Farmers Union.

A Uniontown farmer said he felt the \$1.05 was needed because he had paid \$1.90 more per hundredweight for feed in 1988.

The Pennsylvania Farmers Association urged the State Milk Marketing Board to keep the \$1.05 per hundredweight in effect until the end of August. PFA spokesman Mel Eckhaus told the PMMB, "It is not our intent as an organization to use drought relief to insure that the poor manager remain viable, but rather to help efficient producers not go out of business due solely to adverse weather conditions."

James Fraher, an economist who spoke for six eastern U.S. milk cooperatives, urged the Board to make their decision by Friday when new national milk prices will be set.

Since the feed costs attributable to the drought have not returned to normal, we believe the drought surcharge should also continue into the next feed production year. And we support the farmers who made this point to the Milk Marketing Board this week. To end the drought cost relief in the middle of winter only gets half the job done.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Plan Your Estate

During my lifetime the management of farm labor, livestock, crops and machinery has been very important in order to obtain maximum production. Many farmers have excelled in these areas. Now, as we look into the mid-eighties, I feel that money management is of growing importance to the farmer and warrants much more attention and knowledge. The planning of your estate, including the making and updating of a will and also the proper farm transfer are considerations that are very important, especially with changes in the tax laws.

Today, the average farmer handles more money in one month than their ancestors did in a year. We urge more attention to estate planning and money management as part of good farm management.

We would encourage you to attend the Estate Planning meeting on Thursday, February 23 and the Farm Transfer meeting on Thursday, March 9 - both start at 7:30 p.m. in the Farm Show and Home Center, Lancaster. Attorney John Becker, Farm Law Specialist, Dr. Larry Jenkins, Farm Management/Tax Specialist at Penn State University and Alan Strock, Multi-County Extension Farm Management Agent will be the speakers.

To Be Aware Of The Value of Colostrum For Newborn Lambs

Weak, chilled lambs should receive colostrum within 30 minutes to one hour after birth, according to Chester Hughes, Extension Livestock Agent. Colostrum is high in energy and antibodies which are required by the lamb in early life. It should be remembered that the later a lamb receives its first colostrum, the fewer the number of antibodies transported across the walls of the small intestines. If lambs are unable to nurse, they should be fed by stomach tube. There are a number of commercial tubing devices on the market, but, one that can be made on the farm consists of a 60 cc syringe and catheter tube which

can be purchased from a local drug store. Lambs should be fed 25 ml(cc) of colostrum per pound of body weight. A little extra care at birth can mean a healthier lamb.

To Evaluate Manure Plant Food

Our Agronomists have told farmers for 40 years that a ton of dairy manure is equivalent to 100 pounds of 10-3-5 fertilizer but recent research indicates that much of the nitrogen is lost when manure is spread daily and left exposed to the elements.

Current data have confirmed that a ton of stored dairy manure is equivalent to 100 pounds of 10-4-8 fertilizer (page 19-20 of the 1989-90 Agronomy Guide). The nutrients in fresh manure are equal to those in inorganic fertilizers for crop production, but more slowly available. If the manure is incorporated immediately, very little nitrogen is lost, if incorporated after 2 days 40% is lost, after 4 days 60% is lost and 7 days or longer 80% is lost. Studies concur with this and show that corn fertilized with fresh manure applied and plowed down in the spring produced the most corn silage.

Yields were lowest when the manure was applied in the fall, left exposed on the soil surface all winter and plowed down in the spring. Be sure to include the

nutrient value of manure when calculating your crop needs. It's important to manage manure application just as you manage other areas of your operation.

To Train & Prune Trees

General pruning of apple trees should be in full swing at this time of year, especially if you have a lot of pruning to do. I'd like to remind growers and homeowners not to overprune young trees or those which haven't started to bear fruit. There is a tendency to either prune small trees too heavily, or simply to leave them alone. A middle-of-the-road course is best.

The training of young trees should involve just enough cutting to maintain a healthy central leader and to develop the desired number of well-spaced scaffold branches. Branches that are either poorly spaced, or ones making narrow-angled crotches should be removed.

Keep in mind, when you start pruning early -- start with your heartier trees, the apple and pear with plums, sour cherries next and leave your peach till near the end; they're quite tender.

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SANCTIFIED MATERIALISM

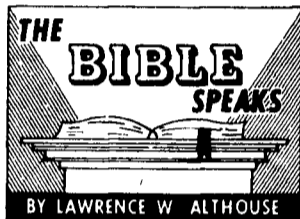
Even in our religious institutions that same double standard seems to apply. If you doubt that, then consider this: next Sunday morning two utter strangers enter through your church doors -- one of them is obviously affluent and successful, the other shabbily dressed and obviously down on his luck. Which of these two men will you and your church welcome the most warmly? Even churches can become materially-minded and be too concerned with beautiful buildings, modern equipment, big budgets, and material 'success.'

The man in the parable -- Luke 12:16-22 -- seems, according to our standards today, a most prudent and enterprising man. Is Jesus faulting him because he used good common sense and enterprise to get ahead? Is he implying that it is wrong for us to plan ahead and do our best to provide for our material needs? Is there something wrong with making the best standard of living we can?

THE KINGDOM FIRST

I think the answer to all three questions is no. What Jesus is warning against is not material things, honest enterprise, or "getting ahead," but the mistake of the rich man in the parable who mistook his soul for his physical body, of those who are ruled by covetousness and do not realize that "life is more than food, and the body more than clothing," and fail to make seeking his kingdom the number one priority of life.

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WHAT IS REALLY #1?
February 5, 1989

Background Scripture: Luke 12:13-34.

Devotional Reading: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-48.

An African exchange student once told me that he was quite confused by the Americans he met in his native land. On one hand, there were the missionaries preaching Christ and asserting that life "does not consist in the abundance of possessions." On the other hand, he said, there were all the other Americans who assured him that he must get as much education as possible so that he might guarantee the highest possible living standard. "Which of these," he asked, "is telling the truth?"

His question was very embarrassing to me. I had to admit that, although one day a week we profess that the spiritual is superior to the material, six days a week we act as if one should "get all you can as long as you can." Turn on your television and the message is that the satisfaction of our deepest needs and cravings is to be found in material things. Our magazines, and newspapers encourage us to think that, no matter how much we have, there is still something we don't have that we ought to have.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, February 4

Lawrence County Wool Rovers Meeting, Liberty Grange near Harlansburg, 10:00 a.m.

Red Meats Spectacular, Nittany Mall, State College, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers Banquet, Durlach-Mount Airy Fire Hall, 6:45 p.m.

Monday, February 6

Pesticide Examination, Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 8:30 a.m.

Northumberland County Conservation Winter Conference, First Baptist Church, Milton, 10:00 a.m.

RCMA Region 9 meeting, Civil Defense Center, Bath, N.Y., 1:00 p.m.

Octorara Young Farmers Pesticides Relicensing meeting, ag education room, Octorara High

School, 7:30 p.m.
Chesapeake Bay Project Sign-Up, Schuylkill Conservation District; runs through Feb. 17. Contact Dave, 917/429-1744.
Keystone Cornucopia Dinner, Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7

Lancaster County DHIA Records & Herd Management meeting, White Horse Fire Hall, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Reservations needed, contact the Lancaster (Turn to Page A42)

FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

Editor:
The 101st Congress has just gotten under way. These next two years should be very exciting for the farm community as the Con-

gress begins work on reauthorizing the 1985 Farm Bill.

There are those who believe there will be few major changes;

(Turn to Page A35)

Lancaster Farming

Established 1955

Published Every Saturday

Ephrata Review Building

1 E Main St

Ephrata, PA 17522

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