



OPINION

Work Together

The success of swine industry efforts to sell a leaner product is paying off at the meat counter. Market statistics indicate the demand for pork has increased for each of the last nine consecutive quarters with a jump of 2% to 4% at the retail level.

According to Gene Todd, director of hog procurement for Farmland Foods, Inc., fueling that demand curve with high-quality hogs is central to continued success at the meat counter.

He adds that teamwork among swine producers and pork processors is the best way to attain that objective.

"To tackle the issues of pork quality, cutability and market penetration, Farmland Foods has established a Producer Advisory Council. "Our objective is to funnel information to producers to help them raise the type of hog and consumer demands and give them a voice in how the industry is structured at the processor level," Todd said.

One early benefit, notes Todd, is a mutual understanding of the criteria for grading hogs based on consumer preference.

Producers have been able to put themselves in the processor's shoes to examine loin eye, backfat and other elements which determine a hog's value on the rail.

"Although fat can be trimmed at the packing house," Todd said, "it just makes more sense to begin with sound genetics and nutrition to build a better hog."

We believe whenever segments of agriculture such as in this case pork producers and packers work together you will have success. Let's continue to seek ways to work together in every area of our great farming industry.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Attend Poultry Progress Day

The seventh annual Poultry Progress Day will be held on Thursday, March 2, in the auditorium at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster. The program will start at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be available. An excellent and timely program has been developed by the Poultry Association Education Committee. Speakers will deal with the concern of "Living With Your Neighbors" in manure handling and odors and pest control. A system of Dead Bird Disposal Through Composting will be reviewed by George Chaloupka, University of Delaware; using computers to assist management of broiler and layer houses will be covered; we'll hear how the "Future Lifestyle Trends Will Affect the Poultry Industry"; we'll receive an update on the national survey conducted for egg producers and a poultry health update.

We encourage poultry producers and people interested in the poultry industry to attend this important meeting. This meeting qualifies for two core credits for your Private Applicator Pesticide License. Please bring your license.

p.m. Call 215/820-3085 for course information.

Ag Forum with Representative John Barley, Penn Manor High School, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 1
Eighth Annual Farm Builders Conference, Crew Day, Penn State Ag Arena, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Pennsylvania Corn Growers Conference, Penn Harris Inn, Camp Hill, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dairy & Computer Management Day, Tulpehocken High School, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; makes reservations by Feb. 27, 215/488-6286.

Farm Transfer Arrangements Meeting, Adams Co. Extension office, 7:30 p.m.

Pennsylvania Potato Growers Institute, Genetti Lycoming Hotel, Williamsport; runs through March 2.

Pennsylvania DHIA Corporate Meeting, Sheraton Penn State, State College; runs through March 2.

Pork Forum '89, Hyatt Regency at Crown Center, Kansas City, Mo.; runs through March 3.

(Turn to Page A30)

To Keep Good Pesticide Records

The arrival of March means the beginning of a new growing season and warmer weather. And, the use of various spray materials and chemicals will be a common practice. They're all intended for a special purpose, if used correctly. In order to protect the producer from the danger of having excess residues in food and feed crops, it is very important that accurate records be kept. This is true with crops as well as with livestock. In case the producer is charged with excess residues, these written records may save your business. Don't rely on your memory or oral statements; they will not stand up at a hearing. Be sure records list the name of the material and the rate and date of application.

To Be Alert For Farm Hazards

With the arrival of warmer weather, outside activity picks up as people -- young and old -- enjoy the arrival of spring, and as farmers rush to get a head start on spring chores. Don't let accidents spoil your enjoyment of this wonderful time of the year, cautions Glenn Shirk, Extension Dairy Agent.

Be alert for active and curious children around farm vehicles. Fence off manure storage units to discourage their accidental entrance. When working around manure pits, be aware of the risk

of toxic gases. Some gases strike man and animals with no warning and others can be explosive. So, provide plenty of ventilation, don't work alone and avoid sparks and flames.

To Use Heat Lamps Safely

A portable heat lamp is a useful item around the home and farm during cold weather. The lamp's infra-red rays can be used to keep pigs from freezing, relax aching muscles, or warm crankcases of tractors and cars so they'll start easier. The heat lamp can also be used in brooders for small pigs or lambs, or baby chicks or at your workbench to give you quick heat.

But, I'd like to add a word of caution. A heat lamp can be dangerous because the lamp's rays can easily burn you, the same as a sunburn.

Also, if you are using the lamp continuously for a long period, use a porcelain socket. Most plastic sockets will not be able to stand the heat. Another thing... in a brooding area, use a wire or chain to support the lamp. Don't hang it by its cord; the cord was designed to carry the current and not the weight. Remember, a heat lamp can come in handy around the farm or home in cold weather; but handle it with care.

The Penn State Cooperative Extension is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educational institution.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, February 25

Cumberland Valley Cooperative annual meeting, Shippensburg Senior High School, Shippensburg, 11:30 a.m.

Hydroponics Workshop, York County Extension office, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; register by calling 717/757-9657.

Monday, February 27

Soybean Day, Meyer's Restaurant on Rt. 309, Quakertown, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Westmoreland County Pasture Management Workshop, Derry High School, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Continues March 9.

Adams County Dairy Nutrition School, Cross Keys Diner, New Oxford, 9:45 a.m.

Planning for the 90s, Part 1, Board Room, Penn State Schuylkill Campus, 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.; for reservations, call 717/385-3431.

American Angus Association's "An Evening With EPDs," Hoss's Steak & Sea House, York, dutch treat dinner at 6:30 p.m., presentation at 7:30 p.m.

Central Penn 4-H Swine Banquet, W. Pennsboro Firehall, 7:00 p.m.

Cumberland County Sheep & Wool Growers Annual Meeting and Banquet, S. Middleton Firehall, Boiling Springs, 7:00 p.m.

Clarion County Pesticide Permit Renewal, Clarion County Park, 7:30 p.m.; bring your current permit.

Frederick County Ag Week, Fredericktown Mall, Frederick, Md.; contact Ted Albaugh 301/898-3342.

Holstein Association Winter Forum, Holiday Inn Fairgrounds, Syracuse, N.Y.; runs through Feb. 28.

Tuesday, February 28

Eighth Annual Farm Builders Conference, Sheraton Penn State, State College, Designers Day, 9:20 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

PennAg Environmental Seminar, Eden Resort, Lancaster, 9:30 a.m.

Farm Financial Management & Stress, Mifflin County Court House, basement meeting room, 9:30 a.m.

Lancaster County Dairy Days, Day 1, Lancaster Farm & Home center, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; continues March 7.

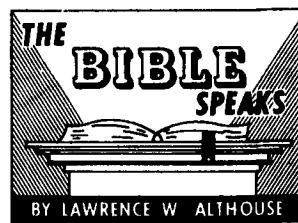
American Angus Association's "An Evening With EPDs," Hoss's Steak & Sea House, Greensburg, dutch treat dinner at 6:30 p.m., presentation at 7:30 p.m.

Ephrata Area Young Farmers sludge management meeting, Cloister Restaurant, 6:30 p.m.

Bucks County Extension annual meeting, Plumsteadville Firehall, Plumsteadville, 7:00 p.m.

Lebanon County 4-H Livestock Banquet, Schaefferstown Firehall, 7:00 p.m.

Small-Scale Part-Time Farming classes begin, Penn State Allentown campus, Fogelsville, 7:30



AN INCIDENT IN JERICO

February 26, 1989

Background Scripture: Luke 19:1-10.

Devotional Reading: Psalms 68:19,20; Acts 9:10-12.

Nazarene Linked to Tax Collector

It doesn't take much imagination to guess the headlines journalists would write if the incident in Jericho were to take place today. Well-known religious leaders would either denounce Jesus outright or at least call his judgment into question. News commentators and editorialists would speculate on whether or not Jesus' "blunder" had finished his career. Tabloids would link him to the nefarious Trilateral Commission. A Gallup Poll would establish that his approval by the average citizen had plunged sharply. Only here and there might there be some isolated voices defending and even approving the incident in Jericho.

THE COLLABORATOR

Actually, that's the way the incident was viewed in his own day. Zaccheaus and other Jews like him were the very worst outcasts of Jewish society. It wasn't just that they were tax collectors,

but that it was the Romans for whom they collected their levies. So Zaccheaus was a traitor in the eyes of his countrymen. In addition, tax collectors were hated because they cheated their fellow citizens, collecting a great deal more than they turned over to the Roman government. So Zaccheaus was both a traitor and a cheat -- and no respectable Jew would have anything to do with him. The only course was to ostracize Zaccheaus and isolate him in the Jewish society.

Jesus, however, did not see it that way. Instead of ostracizing Zaccheaus, Jesus took the initiative to show the tax collector that he did not reject him: "Zaccheaus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today" (Luke 19:5). This brought a predictable response, not just from the scribes and Pharisees, but the crowds as well: "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner" (19:7). They saw Jesus as condoning the man's sins and as insensitive to the tax collector's victims.

THE NEW MAN

Jesus, however, was concerned, not with condemning his sins, but with reclaiming him for God. Jesus was probably the first person who treated him like a human being for a long time and Zaccheaus: "came down and received him joyfully" (19:6). Because of this incident in Jericho, society lost a sinner and gained a new blessing.

(Based on copyrights 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
Ephrata Review Building
1 E. Main St.
Ephrata, PA 17522
— by —
Lancaster Farming, Inc.
A Steinman Enterprise
Robert G. Campbell General Manager
Everett R. Newswanger Managing Editor
Copyright © 1988 by Lancaster Farming

