



# OPINION

## Add Congratulatory Remarks

At its March meeting in Harrisburg, the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program Commodity Marketing Board received a brief congratulatory visit from PA Secretary of Agriculture Boyd Wolff, following the Board's approval of a concept that will serve as the framework for cooperation among four dairy promotion groups in Pennsylvania.

The proposal, hammered out over the past couple of months by the program managers and board chairman, is aimed at establishing a solid working relationship between the PDPP, American Dairy Association and Dairy Council Inc. (Federal Order 2), the Federal Order 36 Advertising and Promotion Agency/Mideast United Dairy Industry Association, and the Middle Atlantic Milk Marketing Association. Representatives of the three other groups, whose own boards have also reviewed the partnership concept, were present at PDPP's board meeting.

A partnership contract outlining the agreement between the PDPP, Mid-East UDIA, ADA/DC and MAMMA is now in the drafting stage, and it will become the basis for how the four programs will work together to best utilize the monies entrusted to them by Pennsylvania dairymen.

We want to add our congratulatory remarks too. By working together, dairy promotion efforts are strengthened through the use of mutual resources. Now, promotion moneys can be used in cooperative programs that will avoid duplication of advertising. In addition, marketing efforts can be directed to new areas.

No doubt about it, the joint efforts by all these milk promotion groups will do a much better job for the dairymen who fund the programs with check-off dollars from their milk checks.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

### To Consider

#### Concentrate Starter Rations

A recent Iowa State study has shown the advantages of a 60% concentrate starter ration for feedlot cattle compared to a corn silage/supplement diet. Over 500 newly weaned calves were started on diets that were either 40% corn, 40% corn cobs, soybean meal, and minerals, or 86% corn silage plus a protein/mineral supplement.

Both groups showed the typical fast gains for the first 14 days, followed by lower gains for the next two weeks. Average daily gains in both phases were significantly greater for those on the high concentrate diets, with a difference of .34 lbs. per day. Those on the high concentrate diets also ate more feed and gained more efficiently during the first 28 days.

This data indicates the high concentrate diets were an advantage as starter diets. It should be considered, however, that these were not highly stressed, purchased calves. Secondly, there was no information about health differences between the groups. Some research has shown that there will be a higher incidence of sickness in stressed calves on this type of starter diet.

#### To Build Flower Boxes

If you like flowers and don't have room for a flower garden, why not plan for an attractive flower box for your porch or window sill? Porch boxes can be built with small pieces of surplus or unused lumber. You can probably find what you want at any lumber sales or you may have some wood pieces just lying around.

#### The depth of an average size

Growers dinner meeting, Trinity United Presbyterian Church, 6:30 p.m.; make reservations by March 27, call 412/662-3141. Maryland Ag Safety & Health Federation meeting, Friendly Farms Restaurant, west of Rt. 83 at Exit 27 in Baltimore County, Md.; call Gary Smith at 301/454-3501 for details.

Cedar Crest Young Farmers awards banquet, Schaefferstown Fire Hall, Schaefferstown, 7:00 p.m.

Child Caregivers Shortcourse 3: Discipline, First Church of the Brethren, York, 7:00 p.m.; call 717/757-9657 for reservations. Repeats April 11.

Allied Milk Producers Cooperative dinner meeting, Masonic

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box can range from 7 to 9 inches and the width from 9 to 12 inches -- whatever size suits you best.

The box should be made solidly and can be just about any length you want. The most popular woods used for flower boxes are cypress, red cedar, and white pine. After you finish your box, be sure to bore holes in the bottom to provide adequate drainage and treat it with wood preservative.

#### To Ventilate Stables

Stables can be very difficult to ventilate in the spring of the year due to frequent and drastic changes in weather. It is important to have a constant change of air to control temperature and humidity and to keep odors and germs to a minimum, and this should be done without creating cold drafts on the animals. That means the windows, doors and vents need to be adjusted frequently throughout the day as weather conditions change. This is not convenient to do, but it is a very necessary chore. Many of these adjustments can be automated by installing thermostatically controlled fans and self adjusting air inlets, both of which need to be properly installed and maintained.

For good herd health, be sure

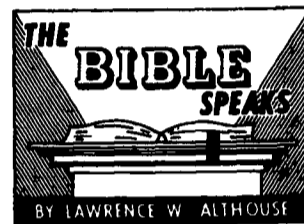
your barns are properly ventilated this spring. It will help improve animals' appetites and reduce the problem of respiratory ailments associated with warm, stuffy barns.

#### To Prepare For The Pasture Season

One of the cheapest ways to boost feed production quickly is to lime and fertilize pastures, and now is a good time to do that. This could give a quicker response to your investment of time and dollars than reseeding the pasture, plus you don't have the risk of erosion and seeding failure nor the cost of reseeding. Desirable species of grass are already present in many permanent pastures; all they need is a little encouragement and the opportunity to grow. Rotational grazing, controlled grazing, weed control and soil aeration can help them become productive.

If pastures have to be reseeded, delay seeding until September. That's when the chances for success are greatest. Take advantage of this summer to control weeds and build up fertility.

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### THE SECRET OF CONFIDENCE

April 2, 1989

Background Scripture: Philippians 1:1-26.

Devotional Reading: John 15:1-11.

Thomas Paine, who inspired many Americans during our War for Independence, in one of his books wrote scathingly of "the sunshine patriots"-- those who managed to maintain their patriotism only so long as conditions seemed to be favorable to the cause of the American Revolution. "Sunshine Christians" are no less a concern. So long as things are going along reasonably well, many of us have no difficulty in keeping up our Christian discipleship. But let some clouds obscure the sun, let the storms of life come upon us, and it may be a whole new ballgame.

I can be perfectly content with my faith so long as everything is pretty much going my way -- my health is good, my family is stable, my work is progressing, and my problems are really quite minor. But let some problems arise, let illness or injury come, let my work meet obstacles and my plans be frustrated -- all or any of those -- and I have to re-examine just what is the basis of my confidence.

#### ADVANCING THE GOSPEL

It is in times such as these that I

-- and others like me -- need to look to Paul to put things in true perspective. In Philippians, Paul sets forth the secret of Christian confidence. One doesn't have to get very far into the first chapter to know that Paul is supremely confident, even though he doesn't seem to have much reason to be. Things certainly haven't gone his way. He is in jail unjustly accused. Some of his enemies have grasped the opportunity to ridicule and scorn his work. Paul's cherished plans for preaching the gospel seem to be utterly thwarted. So how can Paul be confident?

Paul has apparently learned that faith is not dependent upon "things going along" the way we want them to. Actually, Paul discovered that, although everything had gone all wrong, God was still able to accomplish his purposes through Paul. So Paul writes, "I want you to know, brethren, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel..." (1:12). Actually, Paul's defeat has become God's opportunity, for the gospel is spreading because of Paul's imprisonment and the local Christians are encouraged and inspired.

#### IN THE LORD

Even if Paul is put to death, he can't lose: "Christ will be honored in my body whether by life or by death" (1:20). In jail or out of jail, unopposed or buffeted by enemies, plans fulfilled or dashed to pieces, Paul's faith stands unshaken, for it never depended upon any of these. Nor are God's purposes for us and the gospel dependent upon them. Paul's secret is something we can all share, if, like him, we are "confident in the Lord" and nothing else.

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## Farm Calendar

- Saturday, April 1**  
Bucks County Holstein Club annual dairy tour, depart Bucks Co. Bank Corporate Center, Cross Keys, 7:30 a.m.
- Pennsylvania Spring 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, Penn State Ag Arena, State College, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Dauphin County Fifth Annual Consignment Sale, Dauphin County fairgrounds, Gratz, 9:00 a.m.
- Eastern North American Murray Grey Field Day, Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp, Weston, W.V., 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., cookout at noon; for information, call Jon Chapman at 304/428-4775.
- Penn State Dairy Science Club judging contest, Penn State Ag Arena, State College, 10:00 a.m.
- Bradford-Tioga Jersey Cattle Club annual meeting, Alba Church, noon
- Fruit Pruning Demonstration, Bertram's Fruit Farm on Rt 670 between Honesdale and Bethany, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Pennsylvania Maple Festival, Meyersdale fairgrounds, Meyersdale; runs through April 9.
- Sunday, April 2**  
Northeast Dairy Conference, Col-

- onial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, VA; runs through April 4.
- Monday, April 3**  
Pesticide Examination, Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 8:30 a.m.
- Sheep Shearing School, Carl Gadsby farm, near Grove City, 9:00 a.m.; runs through April 4. For information, call 662-3141.
- University of Maryland Wye Angus auction, Wye Reserach & Education Center, seven miles southeast of Queenstown, noon.
- PFPA Legislative Conference, Holiday Inn East, Harrisburg, 1:00 p.m.; banquet at 6:30 p.m. Call 717/761-2740 by March 30 for tickets.
- Berks County Conservation District and Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service banquet, Kutztown Grange Hall, Kutztown, 7:00 p.m.
- State 4-H Capitol Days, Harrisburg, runs through April 4.
- Tuesday, April 4**  
Evening for Friends of Ag, sponsored by PFU, Holiday Inn Center City Harrisburg, Harrisburg, reception at 6:00 p.m.; call PFU at 717/234-4311 for tickets.
- Mercer County Sheep & Wool

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