



OPINION

"We're Thinking Of You!"

Sometimes to be first with the news is heartbreaking. Last week, when we received word at press time that the highly respected Keystone Guernsey herd of the Roger Campbell family at Halifax had been confirmed positive to bovine tuberculosis, we were again grateful to have contacts that keep us on top of the farm news.

But the heartbeat of farming within us drew back from the devastation and pressure that this story would put on the Campbell family, the Guernsey breed, the Pennsylvania dairy industry and many other segments of Pennsylvania agriculture not yet known.

As we knew would happen, the Campbell family has been thrown into the media spotlight. Through no known fault of their own, they have seen the branding iron of condemnation placed on the jaws of some of their prized show cows (the heart of their breeding program). And unless you have worked with cows yourself, you have no idea how this hurt feels.

In addition, the Campbells have been faced with the prospect that family members and other persons may have been placed at a health risk from contact with their cows. This prospect is as awesome as the loss of their dairy animals. One day you have no indication you have a problem, the next day you are the probable cause of other people's hurt. What trepidation this causes in the hearts of those involved.

And other herds are affected. Animals sold from Keystone are now also known to have the disease. Wouldn't you know, one of these animals was bought by a blind girl in the Chester County 4-H program that had used this prize animal (champion of the 4-H dairy show) to help her overcome her handicap? So the hurt continues.

And while the loss of the inherent genetics to the Guernsey breed from this top dairy herd is not as emotional, the loss is great and will be felt for many years to come. And the loss of Pennsylvania's certified tuberculosis free status will be costly, too.

But, to Joan Liesau, former editor here, who broke her story in Lancaster Farming, thank you. Your all night work and sympathetic reporting on this major farm news story will greatly enhance your writing career.

And to the Campbell family and all those persons who are and will be affected by this misfortune, we can only say as all your fellow Dairy of Distinction families from across Pennsylvania said in the sympathy card they signed at Ag Progress Days this week—"We're thinking of you!"



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Avoid Feeding Uncured Silage

Do you want to throw your cows off feed and reduce their daily milk production? One good way of doing this is to feed them uncured silage, according to Glenn Shirk, Extension Dairy Agent. This is a problem that is hard to prevent during silo filling time, especially if you have only one silo and you have no cured silage to feed while other silos are being filled and cured. However, with a little thought and effort, this problem could be prevented on many farms. If you don't have extra silos available to give you the flexibility you need at harvest time, consider putting some of this year's silage in a small stack, pile or bunker, and feed from it during next year's harvest season. The same idea will work this year if you have some corn that will be ready to chop 3 or 4 weeks ahead of the rest of your corn crop.

To Enforce "Biosecurity"

Emergency and common diseases are produced by microbes or germs which are invisible except when viewed under a microscope. In less than a day a single microbe can reproduce and multiply to a number greater than the number of people on earth. Microbes are our enemy and are killers. Keeping these prolific killers off your premises and out of your poultry and animals is the key to your herd or flock's health and the success of your business. It is possible to keep a germ free operation by using a health plan called "BIOSECURITY." In simple terms it is informed common sense. Do not bring germs to your farm and do not take them to another farm.

Dairy farmers are concerned with the tentative diagnosis of TB in Dauphin County and poultry farmers are alert to the H₇N₃ Avian Influenza antibodies that were found in two broiler breeder flocks in Virginia. The H₇N₃ virus is not the same as the H₅N₂ Avian Influenza virus that we experienced in 1983-84. It can however become very dangerous and lethal to poultry.

It all points to the need to prevent the spread of disease from farm to farm. We have too much to lose by not taking precautions.

To Plan Winter Cover Crops

This is a good time to give some thought to a winter crop cover on land that has been tilled this past season. The seeding of ryegrass, brome grass, or winter grains following the harvesting of the main crop this fall, will help reduce soil erosion.

In addition, a cover crop adds organic matter when it is incorporated into the soil next spring. Cover crops are especially helpful on slopes and hillsides where water erosion is a problem. Just a word of caution, some herbicides used on corn (atrazine) may prevent growth of any grain or cover crop this fall.

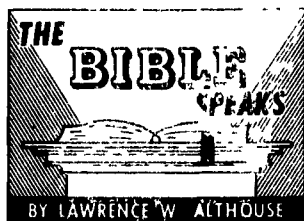
To Determine Fertilizer Needs

The early fall months are good times to do soil testing and learn what plant nutrients will be

needed for the 1990 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 19 of the 1989-90 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 this fall, the land owner has more time to locate and deal for his lime and fertilizer needs.

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



BEYOND PREJUDICE
August 20, 1989

Background Scripture:

Ruth 2 and 3.

Devotional Reading:

Luke 12:22-32.

When Naomi returned to her native Bethlehem with Ruth, her Moabite daughter-in-law, the writer tells us that "the whole town was stirred because of them." (1:19). We do not know why the people were "stirred," but, probably they were surprised at both the return of Naomi and the fact she was bringing a foreign woman to live in their midst. As we mentioned last week, Israelites and Moabites were generally enemies and in addition there were strict prohibitions against any social contact with foreigners.

Nevertheless, despite Israel's traditional suspicion and disdain for foreigners, there were some local customs that were more benevolent and compassionate. During the barley harvest, it was customary for the owners of the fields to permit poor people to glean in the fields after the workers had harvested the crop. No man was ever to be so selfish that he refused to leave any remnants of his crop to help the poor. So, Boaz's first response to Ruth is one of compassion—he told his workers to be sure that there was enough for her to glean.

His next reaction was one of respect. When Ruth asks him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?", Boaz gives her his answer: "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land

and came to a people that you did not know before" (2:10,11).

No matter how great was the prejudice against foreigners, it neither kept Boaz from following the tradition of permitting poor people to glean in his fields, nor did it keep him from giving Ruth the respect and admiration due her for her loving care for Naomi.

So impressed was Boaz with Ruth, that he asked her to share his lunch with him. Afterward, he gave special instructions to the workers so that they should make sure that she would have much from which to glean. Compassion and kindness had overcome prejudice and selfishness. We can see this same characteristic in Ruth when she returns to Naomi. Instead of eating everything placed before her by Boaz, she saved what was left over, took it home and "gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied" (2:18). Impressive as had been Ruth's words when she committed herself to follow Naomi, her actions were even more admirable.

FAMILY OBLIGATIONS

There is another element in this story that illustrates compassion winning out over prejudice and selfishness. Naomi knew of the old Levirate, law that requested nearest of kin to marry widows of members of the family so that the name of the deceased could be perpetuated. It seems a strange custom today, but its purpose was admirable; families will take care of their own people. This is institutionalized compassion and it saved many widows from destitution. Following the advice of Naomi who was well familiar with the custom, Ruth comes to Boaz at the threshing floor and entreats him: "...spread your skirt over your maidservant, for you are next of kin" (3:9). This was a symbolic gesture indicating that Ruth would henceforth be under his protection as her husband.

Thus, because of Ruth's perseverance, Naomi's wisdom, and Boaz's compassion, human kindness conquered prejudice.

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Farm Calendar



Saturday, August 19
Central Pennsylvania Holstein Championship Show, Huntingdon fairgrounds, 6:00 p.m.
Sleepy Hollow Ranch Day II, Sleepy Hollow Ranch, Pennsylvania, noon to 8:00 p.m.; for more information, call 215/679-3304.
Warren County Holstein Sale, County fairgrounds, Pittsfield, noon.

Sunday, August 20
Franklin County Fair, Chambersburg; runs through August 26.
Fulton County Fair, McConnellsburg; runs through August 26.
Somerset County Fair, Meyersdale; runs through August 26.
Westmoreland County Fair, Greensburg; runs through August 26.

Cameron County Fair, Emporium; runs through August 26.
Carbon County Agricultural Fair, Lehighton; runs through August 26.
Crawford County Fair, Meadville; runs through August 27.
Monday, August 21
Mountain Area Fair, Farmington; runs through August 26.
Tuesday, August 22
Northeast Pennsylvania Holstein Championship Show, Tioga County Fairgrounds, Whitneyville, 9:30 a.m.
Blue Valley Farm Show, Bangor; runs through August 26.
Elizabethtown Community Fair, Elizabethtown; runs through August 26.
Harford Fair, Harford; runs through August 26.

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