



OPINION

Meat Month

In case you didn't know Governor Casey declared February as Meat Month, as a tribute to the contributions the livestock and meat industries make to the state's economy.

Initiated by the Pennsylvania Beef Council, the Governor's proclamation serves as a reminder to the state's citizens that today's meat products are changing to satisfy consumer expectations regarding health, nutrition, and food safety.

The proclamation also speaks of a "renewed optimism for the growth of the Commonwealth's largest industry — agriculture. They, (farm families) and thousands of other employees employed in occupations such as packing, processing, shipping and retailing, are dedicated to quality meat products."

The Governor's proclamation is just part of an industry-supported promotional campaign created to boost meat sales and improve consumer attitudes about meat. The Pennsylvania Beef Council has installed attractive point-of-purchase material in more than 1700 retail stores in the state, and have conducted numerous in-store cooking demonstrations.

National Meat Month promotions are just part of a coordinated beef and veal marketing plan funded by producers through the \$1 per head beef checkoff program.

In his proclamation, the governor mentions the \$550 million that the state meat industry adds to the annual economic activity. And this activity is important. But the real blessing comes from the good food that is available for the family dinner table.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

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 Attend Poultry Progress Day

The eighth annual Poultry Progress Day will be held on Thursday, March 1, 1990 in the auditorium of the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster. The program will start at 8:55 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be available. An excellent and timely program has been developed by the Poultry Education Committee.

Vandalism and break-ins are increasing in our rural communities; we'll hear from an attorney-at-law, some of the things we can do to protect our property and ourselves. We'll hear about some exciting new egg products for today's consumer from a well known innovator, Arthur Papetti. Two nationally known veterinarians will tell us how to deal with the Bronchitis and Reovirus problems.

Dr. William Porter, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, Lancaster General Hospital will give us some information on what we can do to protect our lungs from the various particles around the home and farm. Other speakers will deal with good employer-employee relationships; pride in your product and your work, pesticide storage and other areas.

This meeting qualifies for core

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credits for your Private Applicator Pesticide License. Please bring your license.

To Be Reminded of Our High Quality Milk

A number of tests are performed on milk to assure its quality. One of the more important tests that reflect the degree of sanitation under which milk was produced and handled, and how well it will keep on the shelf and in the home, is the preliminary incubation count (PIC).

Milk is pasteurized to destroy disease spreading organisms that may be present. The bacterial content of milk, prior to pasteurization, is kept low by sanitary production practices on the farm by keeping milk equipment clean and sanitized, by cooling milk quickly and keeping it stored at about 36° F., and by keeping the herd free of communicable diseases.

Locally, nearly every tank load of milk, if not every tank load, is screened for antibiotic content. If antibiotics are detected, the tank load is dumped, the contamination is traced back to its source and the producer is penalized.

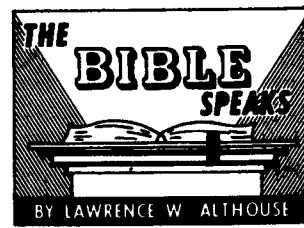
The farm is inspected periodically by federal, state and local officials to see that the farm meets minimum standards for producing milk. If they fail they can lose their market.

That is the reason our consumers can be assured that milk purchased at the local market or supermarket is the best that it can be.

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.

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 gas. Some gases strike people and animals with no warning, and others can be explosive. So, provide plenty of ventilation, don't work alone, and avoid sparks and flames. Safety is no accident.



WHAT KIND OF PEACE?

February 25, 1990

Background Scripture:

John 14:15-31.

Devotional Reading:

John 14:18-31.

I cannot even remember attempting something for Christ that asked of me more than I was able to give. No matter how difficult that task might seem in prospect, if I took up the challenge of it, it was never too much.

In fact, the "too much" always proved to be the result of my own misjudgment and there were times when I backed off from the challenge because I was sure that I could not see it through. The "impossibility" was only in my mind, for when I have been willing to tackle the "impossibilities," I have found a source of power that has always been more than enough to supply my needs.

BEYOND HUMAN POWER

No less than three times in John 14:15-31 Jesus makes this point and each time he makes it even clearer. "If you love me," he says, "you will keep my commandments" (14:15). And that is what sounds so threatening and impossible to us. Keeping his commandments seems quite beyond our powers. So, he says again, "He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him"

(14:21). And then a third time: "If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him" (14:23).

What this means is that living by Christ's teachings brings us into close communion with him and the Father and from this close communion comes the power quite beyond our normal human capacities to keep his commandments. But, if we don't try to keep his commandments, we will not be close to him, and if we are not close to him, we will not experience his power in our lives.

NOT AS THE WORLD

Jesus goes on to say: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (14:27). The peace of Christ is different than the peace that the world offers us. The peace of the world is to be saved from trouble. The peace of Christ, however is to be saved in trouble. The world deceives us in promising to keep us out of trouble. No one alive, including Jesus, can escape from trouble. So, if trouble is our common lot, what we need is to be saved in the midst of it, to know that even as we suffer and struggle, Christ is with us, strengthening and empowering us, just as God was with him on Calvary.

This, then, is the kind of peace he offers us—the power we can experience in the midst of life if we live as close to him as we can. His union with us—whether you call it the Indwelling Christ, the Spirit of God, the Counselor, or the Holy Spirit—gives us the extra power that will make us victors with him instead of victims.

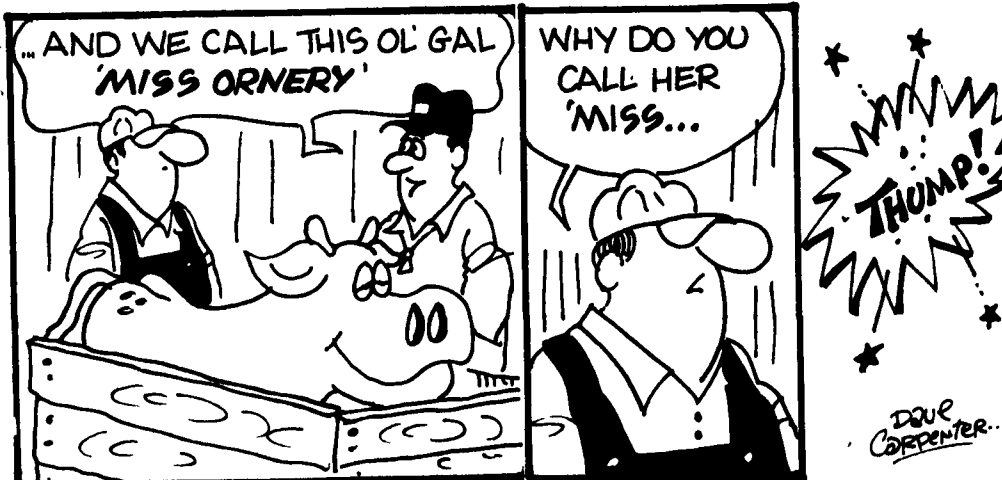
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Farm Calendar

- Saturday, February 24**
60th meeting of the Cumberland Valley Cooperative Association, Shippensburg High School, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- Pa. Holstein Convention, Sheraton Inn, State College, thru Feb. 25.
- Berks Co. 4-H Leader and Member breakfast, Berks Co. 4-H Center, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Sunday, February 25**
Pa. Holstein Convention, Sheraton Inn, State College.
- Monday, February 26**
Cumberland Cooperative Sheep & Wool Growers meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Westmoreland Co. Crops Fair, Mountain View Inn, Greensburg, thru Feb. 27.
- Adams Co. Dairy Promotion Committee, extension office, 7:30 p.m.
- Potter Co. Dairy Nutrition School, extension office, Coudersport, thru Feb. 28, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- AI School, West Virginia University, Feb. 26-March 1.
- Tuesday, February 27**
Montgomery Co. Soybean Day, repeats Feb. 28, Family Heritage Restaurant, Franconia, 9:00 a.m.
- Lancaster County Dairy Day 1, Farm and Home Center, 9:00

- a.m.-3:00 p.m., repeats March 6.
- Milk Quality meeting 2, Harry Schrader & Sons Farm, Chestertown, Md.
- Bucks Co. extension annual meeting, 7:00 p.m. (location to be announced).
- Milk Market Opportunities, Adams Co. extension office, Gettysburg, 10:00 a.m.
- Southeast Pa. Garden Center Conference, Lansdale Holiday Inn, Kulpville, Feb. 27 & 28, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Clarion Co. Pesticide Update credits, Clarion Co. Community Park, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
- Potter Co. Dairy Nutrition School, continues thru Feb. 28.
- Schuylkill Co. Crops Day, Penn State Schuylkill Campus, Schuylkill Haven, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Cambria Co. Regional Greenhouse meeting, Days Inn, Johnstown.
- Sludge Management Program Meeting, Cloister Restaurant, Ephrata, 6:30 p.m.
- Washington Co. Pesticide Update Training, contact Washington Co. extension.



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