

# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

### You'll Want This Quality Assurance Program

The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) are to be commended for their efforts to implement a national milk and dairy beef quality assurance program. John Adams, director of milk safety and animal health, NMPF, and Dr. Bill Van Dresser, director government relations division, AVMA headed the joint committee that developed protocol and materials.

In farmer terms, the program supplies the guidelines and checklist so that milk producers and veterinarians can reduce potential animal drug residue violations and assure the quality milk and meat that leave the farm.

The checklist includes points under preventive health management, FDA approved drugs, farmer/veterinarian relationships, labels, proper storage and administration of drugs and treatments records. Proper on-farm testing capabilities are also covered.

The ultimate objective is to demonstrate to regulatory agencies, the public, processors and packers that the dairy industry is dedicated to producing safe and high quality milk and meat.

This program will involve extension educators, veterinarians, state and federal regulatory officials, milk co-ops, packers, processors, animal drug manufacturers and other animal industry organizations. The program is directed primarily toward the approximately 150,000 dairy producers and 5,000 veterinarians who work with them.

The on-farm check list, to be used jointly by both milk producers and veterinarians, will be posted in the milk house as documentary evidence that safe drug use procedures are in effect. Implementing the quality control procedures may also help avoid potential loss of market, legal action and regulatory action resulting from inadvertent violations.

If you are a dairy farmer, you'll want to get this program in operation on your farm this fall when it becomes available.

## Farm Calendar



- Saturday, June 2**  
Cecil Co. Farm Show, Western, Fairhill Grounds, 9:00 a.m.  
Washington Co. Sheep & Wool Field Day, Washington Fairgrounds, 8:00 a.m., thru June 3.  
Bradford Co. Dairy Festival, Athens, Pa.
- Sunday, June 3**  
Washington Co. Sheep & Wool Field Day, Washington Fairgrounds, 11:00 a.m.
- Monday, June 4**  
Elk Co./Fox Township Ag Security Area public meeting, Fox Township Community Building, Kersey, 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 5**  
Lancaster Co. Plant Disease Clinic, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
S.E. Pa. Twilight Fruit Growers meeting, Robert Dunn and Sons, New Ringgold, Pa., 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 6**  
Pa. Rabbit Conference, June 6-9,

- Montgomery Co. Creamery (Penn State Extension).
- Berks Co. 4-H Center Get-Acquainted Program, 4-H Center, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, June 7**  
Christmas tree shearing demo and field tour, Jim Betta's farm, Benezette, 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, June 8**  
Delmarva Chicken Festival and Cooking Contest, Easton, Md., thru June 9.  
Dairy forage testing and ration building, Clearfield.
- Saturday, June 9**  
Delmarva Chicken Festival and Cooking Contest, Easton, Md.  
Northeast Ohio Dairy Goat Association Annual Show, Randolph Fairgrounds, Randolph, Ohio, thru June 10.
- Sunday, June 10**  
Northeast Ohio Dairy Goat Association Annual Show, Randolph Fairgrounds, Randolph, Ohio.

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## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

### To Be Aware Of Storm Safety

Spring is a time to savor -- and also a time to beware when Nature casts aside a gentle way and unleashes deadly forces. Though lightning, wind and floods frequently destroy life and property, you can do much to avoid being a victim of weather's fury.

When a thunderstorm approaches, avoid lone trees, small metal buildings, fences and high ground. Get out of the water if swimming or boating. Find refuge in a substantial building, motor vehicle or tractor cab. Don't ignore forecasts of severe weather because they are correct a majority of the time. It's also a good idea to safeguard your house and building with a properly installed, approved lightning protection system and inspect it annually.

Don't take chances, take safety.

### To Properly Dispose Of Pesticide Containers

At this time of year, farmers and homeowners are faced with the problem of what to do with empty pesticide containers. According to Jeffrey Stoltzfus, Nutrient Management Agent, if they are disposed of incorrectly, the containers may be a hazard to children, pets, wildlife and groundwater. Leftover pesticides which are not being kept for future use should be emptied into the sprayer and sprayed on the field according to labeled rates. Dumping pesticides and rinse water "out behind the barn" increases the chances of a chemical leaching into the groundwater.

Empty pesticide containers should be rinsed three times with the rinse water being dumped back into the sprayer. Holes should then be punched into the container to prevent future use. Clean containers can then be buried or taken to an approved landfill.

Pesticides which are being kept for future use should be stored in the original container with the original label. Pesticide should be kept in a dry area out of reach of children and pets. Always read and follow label directions for use of and storage of pesticides.

### To Prepare Grain Bins

We are approaching barley harvest season with wheat not far behind, so I would like to remind our grain producers that now is a good time to clean up your grain bins in preparation to harvest. First, clean out all the old grain, sweep down all the sidewalls and floors making sure to remove old grain lodged in the cracks.

Next, spray the floor and walk with a residual insecticide. Malathion and Methoxychlor are still very effective -- follow the label for directions. Finally, prevent birds and rodents from entering the bins. Repair holes with metal or other rat-proofing materials. Clean up all spilled grain around the bin to discourage the various pests from the area.

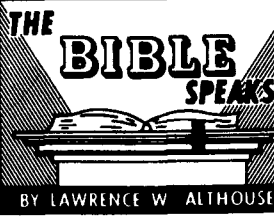
### To Use Respirators

A great many different types of chemicals and pesticides are used on farms today. This includes

mixing, handling and applying the various materials. We urge farmers to invest in respirators to meet safety measures under today's farming procedures. These are needed for handling and applying various spray materials, and when using solvents that give off their fumes.

In addition, farmers working in dusty places, in manure storage tanks, and in silos would wear one of the protective devices. Dusts, molds and fumes are hard on lungs and require protection to reduce injury. The canister type respirators are suggested because they cover the entire face. Don't expose yourself to permanent lung injury when protection is available. Contact your local Lung Association for more information on protecting your lungs.

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



**WHAT'S THE GOOD OF BEING GOOD?**  
June 3, 1990

### Background Scripture:

Psalms 1.

### Devotional Reading:

Matthew 5:1-12.

"Good sermon on righteousness, Reverend," said the parishioner, "but what was the bottom line?" "I beg your pardon?" the perplexed pastor replied. "The bottom line" the man repeated, "how does morality pay off...for us?"

There are a lot of passages in the Bible that suggest that righteousness brings material rewards. "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked..." promises the first Psalm (1:1). And what is the nature of this blessedness? "In all that he does he prospers," (1:3), answers the Psalmist.

If the "good" will "prosper," what of the "wicked"? Says the Psalmist: "The way of the wicked will perish" (1:6). This kind of thinking dominated much of the Old Testament. If a person prospered, it was assumed that it was because they were righteous. Conversely, if a person suffered, it was supposed that the cause was unrighteousness. Job's friends assumed that he had done something wrong to bring himself to such a state of ruin and suffering. And today it is not uncommon for someone to ask me, "What did I do to deserve this?" So, does morality pay off? If I manage to live a very good life, how will it affect my bank statement and income tax?

### DO MORALS PAY?

Actually, morality often does pay off materially. Alexis de Tocqueville, touring the USA more

than a century ago, observed: "I sought for the greatness and genius of America...Not until I went to the churches of America, and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness, did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

Many people I have known have become prosperous because they have attempted to live by the golden rule and that in itself has attracted all kinds of wellbeing to them. We all like to deal with the honest, upright person. For the most part, we avoid merchants and professionals of dubious integrity (with the possible exception of choosing a divorce lawyer!) **JUST A BONUS**

Material gain, however, is not the bottom-line of righteousness. It is merely a bonus that is sometimes thrown in. For often, righteous people do not prosper. Sometimes—far too often, probably—crime does pay. But this is not anything new, for long before the coming of Christ people have wanted to know why the wicked prosper. The book of Job was written specifically to demonstrate that a righteous person may suffer every bit as much or more than the unrighteous person. And the theme of the four gospels is that the most righteous man ever suffered and died unjustly.

So the real pay-off to righteousness, the only one on which you can depend, is within. Morality is "right," not because someone says it is, but because in the long run it produces "good" in the person, in the society and the world. Morality pays off in the one place that really counts: in our own souls. Cicero said "Virtue is its own reward" and as Francois de La Rochefoucauld observed, "Virtue is to the soul what health is to the body." I've never known anyone who regretted that he or she had lived too righteously.

And that's the bottom line on what's the good of being good.

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