



# OPINION

## Ethics For Cattlemen

A hallway debate on the value of having a standard of ethics evolved into a "cattlemen's statement of principle" at this year's National Cattlemen's association convention in Nashville, TN. Animal welfare, the environment and food safety are all covered in the statement, which is in keeping with NCA's new "pro-active" attitude.

The statement says:

- I believe in humane treatment of farm animals and in continued stewardship of all natural resources.
- I believe my cattle will be healthier and more productive when good husbandry practices are used.
- I believe that my own and future generations will benefit from my ability to sustain and conserve natural resources.
- I will support research efforts directed toward more efficient production of a wholesome food supply.
- I believe it is my responsibility to produce a safe and wholesome product.
- I believe it is the purpose of food animals to serve mankind and it is the responsibility of all human beings to care for animals in their charge.
- I will vigorously oppose any legislative or regulatory activity that states or implies interference with that purpose and responsibility.

We believe all segments of animal agriculture should adopt these ethics for cattlemen.



### NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin  
Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

#### To Make Summer Alfalfa Seeding

Early to mid-August are good times to seed alfalfa, particularly in this part of the state. When seeded during this period of good soil moisture, the plants have time to become established before freezing weather arrives.

Alfalfa is still one of our major forage crops and deserves the very best of planning and management. Band seeding is the best method to make this seeding.

Weed control is a "must" with a straight seeding without a nurse crop. Many stands are injured by poor weed control during the first year. Refer to the 1989-90 Agronomy Guide for assistance on weed control practices. Be aware that alfalfa should not be planted in ground that has been treated for corn weed control during the past year, especially fields sprayed with atrazine. Alfalfa is an excellent forage crop; however, it does require attention and good management.

#### To Flush Ewe Stock

Sheep producers in this part of the country should be planning for the 1990 lamb crop. The starting place is to have healthy ewes and a good ram. The practice of "flushing" the ewe flock several weeks prior to the breeding season is recommended in order to get more twin lambs.

This refers to the feeding of extra grain, or the ewes having access to lush grass-type pastures in order to bring them into a gaining condition. Ewes that are not thrifty at breeding time will be more likely to throw a single lamb. The control of internal parasites should be given attention prior to the breeding season.

#### To Practice Farm Safety

I want to remind everyone, during this busy hot harvest season.

that safety is very important at all times both on the farm and on the highway.

Reports show that human errors are responsible for about 85 percent or more of all farm accidents. Many accidents that are blamed on mechanical failures could have been prevented if someone had checked and repaired the equipment as the need arose. It is human to make mistakes but it can also be dangerous.

I'd like to offer some suggestions to help eliminate many of the problems associated with accidents.

\*\* Give extra supervision to inexperienced operators.

\*\* Permit only the operator on equipment while it is in use. Under no conditions should children or adults be permitted to ride along.

\*\* Keep small children out of work areas unless accompanied by a responsible adult.

\*\* Give teen-agers work which they can handle safely.

\*\* Avoid excessive fatigue —

take a mid-morning and mid-afternoon break; it could be the most important part of your day.

\*\* Keep your mind and attention on what you are doing.

Let's be safety conscious and practice safety every day.

#### Be Aware Of The Pollen Count

The "hay fever" season is here. Despite its name "hay" is not normally the cause of hay fever. Ragweed is the chief cause. Ninety percent of all allergic reactions to grass and weed pollens are due to ragweed.

Hay fever is a seasonal disease. It's a disease that many people tend to minimize despite the fact that one out of every three sufferers develop its serious form — chronic asthma.

In Lancaster County it is widespread from early August through September when the weeds flower. The best way to destroy ragweed over large areas is by the use of a weed spray such as 2,4-D. Cutting the plant low, near the roots is recommended for small areas.



### Farm Calendar

#### Saturday, July 28

Lancaster Co./Penn State Master Gardeners' Tour, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

PCA Summer Field Day, Stony Creek Farm, Troy, Pa., 9:00 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Blazing Saddles 4-H Open Horse Show, Spring Valley Park, 9:00 a.m.

#### Sunday, July 29

Wyoming/Lackawana Holstein Club Picnic, Sheypuck Farm, noon.

Carroll County, Md., 4-H/FFA Fair, Cooperative Extension Service, Carroll County, thru August 4.

Centre Co. 4-H picnic and leaders meeting, Millheim Park, 3:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

#### Monday, July 30

Carroll County, Md. 4-H/FFA Fair, Cooperative Extension Service, Carroll County, thru August 4.

Pa. Holstein Assoc. Board of Directors meeting, Holiday Inn, State College, 10:30 a.m.

Cecil County Fair, Cecil County Fairgrounds, Fair Hill, Md., thru August 4.

Chester Co. 4-H Market Lamb Show, West Goshen Fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m.

FFA Western Dairy Show, Butler Fairgrounds.

#### Tuesday, July 31

Carroll County, Md., 4-H/FFA Fair, Cooperative Extension Service, Carroll County, thru August 4.

Cecil County Fair, Cecil County Fairgrounds, Fair Hill, Md., thru August 4.

Penn State Plant Material Short Courses, Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center, thru August 1.

Fayette Co. Holstein Show, Uniontown, 9:00 a.m.

FFA Southwest Dairy Show, Morris Cove, Memorial Park, Martinsburg.

Adams Co. 4-H/FFA 7th annual Swine and Sheep Show and Sale, South Mountain Fairgrounds, Arendtsville, 8:00 a.m.

Cecil Co. Ag Showcase Field Day, (Turn to Page A31)

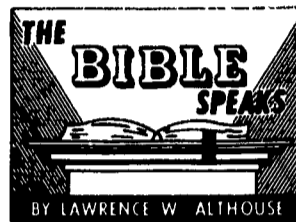


### Farm Forum

One year ago the new Lancaster County Dairy Princess was me. I do not clearly remember exactly what happened in the moments that followed that announcement. I do not really *own* remember standing up and receiving my

crown and banner. Probably the only thing I realized at the moment was that I had actually been chosen as the new Dairy Princess. It has been a fabulous year. Since that night, I have had

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### TAKEN AT THE FLOOD

August 5, 1990

#### Background Scripture:

Ecclesiastes 1-2.

#### Devotional Reading:

Luke 6: 43-49.

I have had some dark days in my life — even some dark periods — but never, at least so far as I remember, have I ever felt as low as the writer of Ecclesiastes seems to feel.

Still, I can identify with him in one thing: much as I love reason, it cannot by itself make life worthwhile and meaningful. That was the experience of the Preacher, the writer of this strange Old Testament book. Apparently addicted to reason, he applied it mercilessly to everything he experienced and found life futile: "Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher... all is vanity" (1:1). That is not the cry of a person experiencing a fleeting depression, but of a man who has thought and reasoned himself to despair.

#### LIFE'S FUTILITY

He has used his reason to examine one after another all the things that motivate people in life. For one thing, he finds that there is no real purpose in the world. It is not going somewhere, growing closer to fulfillment. "A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever... What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; and there is nothing new under the sun" (1:4,9). Life, he finds, is like a treadmill.

Nor does he find toil worthwhile: "Then I considered all that

my hands had done and the toil I had spent in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun" (2:11). Neither does he find satisfaction in wisdom: "I said to myself, 'I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me'... I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind" (1:16,17).

#### AN UNHAPPY BUSINESS

The Preacher next turns to pure pleasure. "I said to myself, 'Come now, I will make a test of pleasure; enjoy yourself'" (2:1). But enjoying himself, he found, was also vanity. So was prestige and power (2:9-11). No wonder he concluded: it is an unhappy business that God has given to the sons of men to be busy with" (1:13).

Finally, he turns to the Epicurean ethic: "There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil" (2:24). Reason brings him to conclude that "one must eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die." Lots of people today would agree with The Preacher at this point — enjoy the moment, for there are no guarantees about the future.

If there is one glimmer of religious faith in either of these first two chapters, it is here. The Preacher is led to confess that "This also, I saw, is from the hand of God; for apart from him, who can eat or have enjoyment?" (2:25). While all has been stripped away by the devastating power of reason, only faith in God remains. Everything else in the world is ultimately futile: "For to the man who pleases him God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy..." (2:26).

Even when reason seems to have stripped everything else away, God's providence and love remain. That's what "the use" is.

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