



OPINION

Dairy Industry Suicide

Dairy farmers need a word of caution. The Federal Drug Administration has a new program that involves monitoring drug residues at the milk plant. And if they find contamination, they will come back to the individual farm samples taken from the bulk tank and ask to see the dairymen's treatment records.

John Adams, National Milk Producers Federation, gave dairymen a warning last week at the Penn-Jersey Dairy Expo. This warning should be given serious consideration. Adams said to contaminate milk with drug residues is a federal offense with stiff punishment.

Milk from cows that have received drugs in medical treatment must be withheld from sale according to directions on the label. In addition, where withholding periods are not listed, individual tests for the specific drug used in treatment must show no contamination before the milk is sold. FDA's testing equipment is so sensitive that one cow's milk can be detected even when mixed with a thousand other cows' milk.

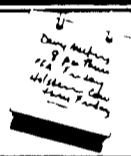
Not only must the dairy farmers protect themselves from potential liability, they must not cause their handler to lose large quantities that result in a financial loss for all the shippers. And if the news media is reporting contamination in the milk, just like alar, it doesn't matter at what level the residue exists. If the public perceives a problem, it is a problem.

In the new NMPF quality assurance program, some of the check list items covered by the new federal laws include:

1. Use FDA approved products.
2. Develop a veterinarian/client relationship.
3. Have drugs properly labeled by a veterinarian and follow the label exactly.
4. Store drugs for lactating animals away from other drugs.
5. Identify treated animals properly.
6. Keep permanent records of treatment.
7. Test for residues on each treated animal before allowing milk or meat to be sent to market.

Everyone in the dairy industry must help to make sure our milk supply is free from all traces of drug residues. To do otherwise is to commit dairy industry suicide.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, January 26

Lehigh Co. 4-H livestock awards dinner, Schnecksville Fire Co., Schnecksville, 6 p.m.

Beaver-Lawrence annual meeting, Perry Township Fire Hall, Elwood City, 11 a.m.

Huntingdon Co. annual Holstein meeting, Warriors Mark Fire Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Forest Landowners' Workshop, American Legion Hall, Crescon, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday, January 27

Monday, January 28

York Co. Fruit Tree Training and Pruning Workshop, Penn State Fruit Research Lab, Arendtsville Farm, 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Beef Cattle Producer meeting, Wayne Co. Extension, Honesdale, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, January 29

Clarion Co. Farm Records Course, Clarion Co. Park, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

1991 Pa. Vegetable Conference and State Horticulture Association meeting, Hershey Convention Center, Hershey, thru Jan. 31.

Lycoming Dairy Day, Community Room, Lycoming Mall, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Lehigh Valley Crops Day, UGI Auditorium, Bethlehem.

Lancaster Co. Heifer Nutrition and Management School, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 9:30 a.m.

Elk Co. bee management, extension office.

Beaver/Butler/Lawrence counties Reproductive Management School, Pleasant Hill Grange, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Basic Farm Records Workshop, Washington, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; repeats Jan. 31.

Clarion Co. Farm Records Course, Clarion Co. Park, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

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NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Protect Your Lungs

Whether in a coal mine or on the farm ... dust can destroy lungs. Farmers who are exposed to dust over long periods of time risk the disabling disease called "farmer's lung". As the dust accumulates in the lungs the tissue hardens. This can lead to a variety of respiratory ailments including bronchitis and asthma. If the condition is not diagnosed soon enough, irreversible lung damage may occur.

Preventing farmer's lung doesn't necessarily require any elaborate or expensive equipment ... a simple mask when dust can't be avoided ... for example when handling dry bedding, sweeping dusty walls or walks or grinding and mixing feed.

Keeping the overall level of dust down is also helpful. Therefore as soon as feed sacks or chemical containers are emptied they should be discarded in the proper manner. Regular house-cleaning of work areas is another good idea. Contact your local Lung Association for more information on how to protect your lungs.

To Treat Sore Feet

Cows, like people, can be affected by sore feet. When their feet are sore, cows are less apt to walk to the feed bunk, to the watering trough, or to distant pastures, according to Glenn Shirk, Extension Dairy Agent. Consequently, feed intake drops and milk production and conception rates suffer.

We are seeing an increase in foot problems related to a viral growth that appears at the rear of the hoof between the claws. Usually, the growth is characterized by rough hair-like projections.

The condition is contagious, and usually spreads to other cows in the herd. Copper sulfate footbaths are not effective against the virus. The only effective footbaths appear to be a 5% formalin solution. For best results, increase the initial strength to 10% for a few days. Then reduce it to 5%, otherwise the hooves may become too hard, and the problem is apt to be aggravated.

To Transfer Silage

Some farmers use temporary silos to store the extra silage for their dairy and feeder cattle. Our Agronomy Specialists tell us that any silage to be moved from a temporary storage to an upright storage should be done in cold weather. When moved in warm weather (over 40° F.) there will be more chances of heating and molding. Make the transfer in cold weather and do it as rapidly as possible. No additives or preservatives should be needed in this process.

By transferring to the upright silo, you can utilize the mechanical feeding equipment in your upright silo.

To Correct Drainage Problems

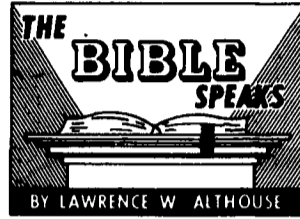
The late winter and early spring provides a good chance to observe the water drainage problems around many homes and farmsteads. If surface water drains into

farm buildings or into homes, then something should be done about it soon. Surface water should be directed away from buildings by way of terraces or diversion ditches.

Water should not be permitted to flow down against buildings from upgrade. This will weaken the structure and wash soil away from the foundation. Water that seeps into a building from underground is a different problem and more difficult to control.

However, the surface water can be directed around and away from farm buildings. Also, the area around wells should be protected from surface water contamination. Water from feedlots and barnyards should not be allowed to flow directly into streams; pastures or holding areas will reduce the possibility of pollution.

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



IS FEAR A SIN?
January 27, 1991

Background Scripture:

Luke 19:11-17.

Devotional Reading:

Luke 12:42-48.

The Parable of the Pounds makes me wonder if Jesus might be a charter member of Tough Love (an organization that assists parents in dealing with delinquent and troublesome youth). For, if the nobleman in this parable is identified as Jesus, then the picture we get is one that is considerably harsher than the "gentle Jesus, meek and mild" that is the popular image.

Of course, we have to remember that a parable generally has but one point to make and one must never push the symbolism too far. I hardly think the portrait of the "nobleman" in this parable is intended to be an accurate and comprehensive representation of Jesus Christ. If we were to take these details seriously — and that is never the purpose of a parable — it would be the only place in the gospels where Jesus would be represented as putting to death his enemies and would clash sharply with the man who prayed on the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

WHEN HE RETURNED

Having said that, I would not want to diminish the severity with which the "nobleman" reacted to the third of his servants. In the story he gave each of ten servants a pound each (a unit of money). When he returned he asked each of the servants to give an accounting of what they had done with his money. The first servant reported a profit of ten pounds and the sec-

ond reported a profit of five. Each of these servants was commended and rewarded accordingly for their stewardship.

The third servant, however, gives back his pound to the master, explaining his failure to gain profit by saying, "Lord, here is your pound which I kept laid away in a napkin; for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man" (19:20,21). Lots of us can identify with this servant because we too might have been afraid to take the risk of losing what we were given. So, we can imagine the master's disappointment or even anger, but we find it hard to understand why he should have responded with a condemnation of this poor man: "I will condemn you out of your own mouth, you wicked servant!" (19:22).

WHOM DO YOU FEAR?

You and I might plead this man's case to the master: Lord, this man had good intentions; he didn't mean to displease you; in fact, he probably thought he was doing the right thing so that he could stay out of trouble with you. He isn't evil, he was just frightened. Surely it is no sin to be afraid!

Yet that's what the parable seems to be saying to us. When God has something for us to do or become, being afraid can be outright contemptuous of him. It is as if we are saying to him that we are more impressed with the power of the world to thwart us, than the power of God to help us accomplish his task. We have looked at the situation and we fear the world more than we respect him. It is saying also that our fear is more powerful than his love.

Inasmuch as sin is defined as "missing the mark," I would say that there are times when, in the face of what God expects from us, timidity, hesitation and outright fear are an offense in God's sight. And then, yes, our fear is a sin.

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