



OPINION

Mighty Fine Option

Again this week, an animal activist group was scheduled to take a shot at agriculture with a proposed plan to eliminate dairy and meat products from the four basic food groups. According to the National Milk Producers Federation weekly news letter, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine set a news conference in Washington, DC, to announce its proposed four food groups to include only whole grains, vegetables, legumes and fruit--with dairy and meat as "options."

"This is another attempt by activists to force a vegetarian diet on the American public," said NMPF Chief Jim Barr. "Dairy and meat products are part of a well-balanced diet and many essential nutrients, including protein and calcium."

Even the American Dietetic Association does not support a diet consisting only of vegetables, fruits, grains and legumes. Of great concern to those who work with diets is the knowledge that even now, many Americans don't meet recommended daily allowances for calcium, iron, zinc and several B vitamins. Lean varieties of meat and dairy products remain the primary source of these nutrients, which are essential to maintaining healthy bones, blood and substances that promote immunity to disease.

When all things are considered, meat and milk remains a mighty fine option when you consider the food groups for a balanced diet.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Stay Off Wet Ground

Don't let spring fever get the better of your good judgment. As you yearn to get into the fields and gardens, remember what you are trying to accomplish. You want seeds to germinate rapidly and seedlings to emerge quickly. The longer it takes for this to happen the greater the opportunity is for disease and insects to attack, weaken or destroy the seed and planting. Follow weather predictions closely and delay planting until soil moisture and temperature conditions are favorable for good germination, and until the risk of frost injury has passed. To prevent soil compaction and surface crusting, don't work soils when they are too wet.

To Renovate Old Pastures

Are your pastures old and unproductive? Are you thinking about tearing them up and reseeded them? Wait! According to Glenn Shirk, Extension Dairy Agent, there may be a better alternative.

Chances are, the pasture already contains seeds of a variety of pasture grasses and clovers. All they need is a little bit of encouragement and an opportunity to grow. They may respond to liming, fertilizing, aeration, rotational grazing and mowing. This is cheaper than complete renovation and there is less risk of seeding failures and erosion.

The best time to seed pastures is around early September when it is cooler and the new stands are not stressed by hot, dry summer conditions. Many of the annual weeds that emerge will be killed by frost before they become a serious competition.

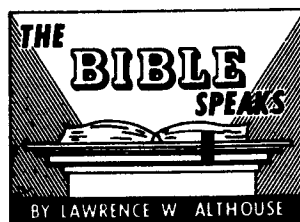
If the pastures do not respond to spring liming and fertilizing, they can be reseeded in September.

weed problem we thought was cured several years ago.

To Prepare For Ryelage Harvest

Winter grains are growing rapidly and before we know it ryelage harvesting time will be upon us. When that time comes, you want to be ready to roll with the harvester because you have so few days in which to harvest the crop at the precise time for top quality feed. If you miss these few days due to inclement weather or poor timing, quality declines very rapidly! Small grains will normally produce up to twice as much TDN per acre when harvested for silage as compared to the same crop harvested as grain. The boot stage of maturity is best.

Line up your harvester now, get the silo ready and as the harvest time approaches, keep a close watch on the fields and be ready to roll at a moment's notice when the weather breaks.



WHO'S GOT THE GIFT?
April 14, 1991

Background Scripture: I Corinthians 12:1-26.

Devotional Reading: Romans 12:1-8.

Whenever I get even slightly stary-eyed about the pristine purity of the early church, I turn to Paul's first letter to the Corinthians to bring myself back to earth. Here was a congregation that faced virtually every problem known to churches today — and then some!

Just as I Cor. 11 was a response to a particular problem the Corinthians were having with their church suppers, so I Cor. 12 is addressed to another serious problem. The end result is more division in the church, but this time the source of the problem is spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are supposed to be an asset to the church, but, of course, any asset can be turned into a liability.

That's what was happening in Corinth. It would appear that certain Corinthians were having ecstatic experiences during worship, probably glossalalia or speaking in tongues. (Something of a misnomer since these outbursts were usually unintelligible and not known tongues or languages, quite unlike what happened on the Day of Pentecost.) There is good reason to believe that these ecstatic tendencies were patterned after, perhaps even borrowed from the wildly emotional and orgiastic practices in certain pagan cults.

DISRUPTIVE & DIVISIVE

The problem for the church was two-fold. For one thing, these bouts of ecstasy disrupted the

worship services. Two people can pray in different ways in silence without disturbing each other. But let one become ecstatic and the other will have a hard time with his or her own devotion.

The second problem was the divisiveness that resulted. Paul never quite uses the word "pride" in this passage, but he at least implies it. Behind his words we can hear someone boast, "I'm more charismatic than you are!" Those who indulged in these ecstatic practices were obviously claiming them as signs of the Holy Spirit working in them. Because these practices were rather spectacular, some people were looking to these "gifted" people for leadership.

What Paul is concerned to do in this chapter is first to challenge this premise that ecstatic Christians are more gifted and valuable than others. Both Paul and his readers know what he is referring to when he says "no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Jesus be cursed!'", but we don't know what this is about. But Paul is reminding the Corinthians that sheer ecstasy alone is not evidence of the Holy Spirit. Some of their pagan neighbors were ecstatic — perhaps it was one of these who said "Jesus be cursed" — and they certainly didn't have the Holy Spirit.

THE COMMON GOOD

There is nothing wrong with ecstasy per se, but ecstasy alone is not a spiritual gift from God. What makes it charismatic, a true gift from God is if it contributes to "the common good" (12:7). That is the acid test for all of God's spiritual gifts. Ecstasy or any other state that does not contribute to the common good is not of the Holy Spirit. And obviously, ecstatic utterances that are harmful to the common good, that generate spiritual pride and are divisive to the church are not of the Holy Spirit either.

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Farm Calendar

Saturday, April 13

Lancaster Co. 4-H benefit auction, Farm and Home Center, 9 a.m.
Pa. Pleasure Walking Horse Association Clinic, Denver JAM Stable, 9 a.m., thru April 14.
Pa. Guernsey Breeders' Association annual meeting, Holiday Inn, Chambersburg.
Tractor and machinery operators safety course, Edinboro Borough Building, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Mercer Co. all-breed calf sale, Crawford Co. Fairgrounds, Meadville, 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 14

Pa. Pleasure Walking Horse Association Clinic, Denver JAM Stable, 9 a.m.

Monday, April 15

Therapeutic riding for the disabled, Horse Park, N.J., 9 a.m.
Elk Co. pesticide license exam, Courthouse, Ridgway, 9:30 a.m.
Wayne Co. barn meeting, Antoncolli Farm, Honesdale, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, April 16

Lehigh Co. Small-Scale Farming, Ag Center, 7:30 p.m.
Delmarva Poultry booster banquet, Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, Salisbury, Md., 6:30 p.m.
Franklin Co. Fruit Grower meeting, Forrester's, 7 p.m.
Home Yard Waste Composting Seminar, Multi-Service Center, Clearfield, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Wednesday, April 17

Adams Co. Fruit Grower meeting, PSU Fruit Lab, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 18

York/Lancaster Tree Fruit meeting, Pleasant Acres Extension, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Tioga Co. pesticide exam, extension office, Wellsboro.
Lancaster Co. Honey Producers beekeeping meeting, David Wampler, Manheim, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 19

Saturday, April 20

Mid-Atlantic Herding Stock Dog Club herding clinic, McVeytown.
Tri-State Walking Horse Association spring clinic, Rockland Farms, Westminster, Md.
Little International Livestock Expo, Penn State Ag Arena, 8 a.m.

(Turn to Page A31)

Farm Forum

AN OPEN LETTER: To Those Who Think Defeat Of The Leahy Bill Was Good

To those who felt the defeat of the Leahy bill was good for dairy farmers-- you are right that Senator Leahy's amendment had its shortcomings.

But you are wrong — or per-

haps do not fully understand the issue — if you believe the bill was not beneficial for dairy farmers, whether in Pennsylvania, New York or any other part of the country.

Here's why:

1. Dairy farmers desperately

(Turn to Page A31)

Lancaster Farming

Established 1955
Published Every Saturday
Ephrata Review Building
1 E Main St
Ephrata, PA 17522
— by —
Lancaster Farming, Inc.
A Steinman Enterprise
Robert G Campbell General Manager
Everett R Newswanger Managing Editor

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