



OPINION

Dairy Of Distinction: A Viable Program

Additions were added to the list of recognized Dairy of Distinction farms again this year. Sixty-seven farms were named in Pennsylvania's 10 districts in 1991 to bring the total over the last five years to 420.

Each year local volunteer committees undertake the ambitious task to select the most attractive dairy farms. Teams of judges survey the farms that have applied for the designation. Scores are given to each farm for appearance as viewed from the public highway or farm entrance.

Attractive farmsteads have an appeal to the public. As Dan Baker, program president and a dairyman from Tioga County says, "Clean and neat farms sell milk."

With the high cost of milk promotion, it is nice to see a program that is run by volunteers on a very low cost budget.

The Dairy of Distinction farms are a great asset to the dairy industry. And without the volunteers the Dairy of Distinction would not be successful. So we congratulate the winning farms and thank the volunteers who have again made the 1991 Dairy of Distinction program a viable dairy promotion and beautification program.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, August 3

Westmoreland Co. Performance Tested Ram Sale.
Adams Co. 4-H Dairy Show, South Mountain Fairgrounds, 11 a.m.
Wayne Co. Fair, Honesdale, thru Aug. 11.
Antique Tractor Workshop, Lake Farmpark, Ohio.
Susquehanna Co. 4-H Dairy Roundup, Harford Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.
Fayette Co. Fair, Uniontown.

Jacktown Fair, Wind Ridge.
New Stanton Farm and Home Fair, New Stanton.
Centre Co. 4-H and Pony Roundup, Grange Fairgrounds, Centre Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 4

Bedford Co. Fair, thru Aug. 11.
Penn State College of Ag alumni get-together, Berks Co. 4-H Community Center, 3 p.m.-7 p.m.
Union Co. West End Fair, Laurel-

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Farm Forum

EDITOR:

Having just read PFA President Keith Eckel's article (Keystone Dairyman Could Lose \$1.05 Premiums) under the new dairy legislation being considered in Congress, I find it very amazing that Mr. Eckel expresses concern about this, as PFA helped reduce the premium at the last milk board hearing. PFA and Farm Bureau are also still trying along with USDA and trade representatives to reduce the dairymen's milk price at the farm level to be able to export dairy products into the world market at world market prices.

I would agree with him that states should be able to set prices at the state level. But this permission would not even be needed if PFA, Farm Bureau, NMPF and some other so called farm organizations, along with USDA and the Secretary of Agriculture and a host of

politicians, started to think about the damage they are doing to the dairy industry, especially the dairy farmer.

All dairymen hear from them is that we need prices set by the law of supply and demand, which they say is working. This to me is a cruel joke on dairymen. USDA sets the price under the M-W price series. Yet even with production dropping and the M-W price going up, my price per #100 has dropped every month this year. Is this the way supply and demand is supposed to work?

I also agree with Mr. Eckel that we do not need mandatory supply or quotas. And also if passed that no part of the country should be exempt.

1. What we as dairymen need is a dairy policy that sets the price of milk at the average cost of produc-

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NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Estimate Corn Yields

The Agricultural Engineering Department at the University of Illinois has developed a technique for estimating corn grain yield prior to harvest.

A numerical constant for kernel weight is figured into the equation in order to calculate grain yield. Since weight per kernel will vary depending on hybrid and environment, the yield equation should be used to estimate relative grain yield.

The steps in doing this yield check are:

- Step 1. Count the number of harvestable ears per 1/1000 th acre.
- Step 2. Count the number of kernel rows per ear on every fifth ear. Calculate the average.
- Step 3. Count the number of kernels per row on each of the same ears. Do not count kernels on either the butt or tip that are less than half size. Calculate the average.
- Step 4. Yield (bushels per acre) equals: (ear number) times (average row number) times (average kernel number per row) divided by 90. This yield estimate may be done anytime after kernels develop on the ears.

To Salute The Poultry Industry

The Lancaster County Commissioners have declared August as Poultry Month in Lancaster County. Poultry is the county's number 1 agricultural industry.

The county ranks first in the state in number of eggs and broilers produced and first in the nation in the number of eggs produced. The county's laying hens produce 6.5 dozen of eggs every second.

The farm value of poultry production in Lancaster County is more than \$225 million. Poultry continues to be a growing industry in the county.

During the past five years, the number of broilers produced has increased by 40.4 percent and the number of laying hens by 38.9 percent. This poultry production con-

tributes to the general economy of the county.

Support companies such as hatcheries, trucking services, husbandry services, feed manufacturing, grain buying, management services, and investment firms have developed. These farms and companies provide jobs and generate money that is used in the community for goods and services, taxes, and investment.

Every citizen in Lancaster County is affected by the poultry industry. We salute this strong agricultural industry for its progressive growth in supplying people an economical source of protein food while providing jobs and contributing to the economic health of the county.

To Visit With Your Banker

It is always a good idea to main-

tain good communications with your banker. This dry year presents many challenges both in production and financial management.

If you have not talked with your banker recently, now would be a good time to schedule a visit with him. You might want to invite him to come and visit your farm and see first hand what you are doing.

This would be a good time to discuss where you are, any anticipated problems facing you, and your credit needs for the next six months. By sitting down and working out a plan before loans come due, will reduce stress, preserve equity, and maintain a good credit rating.

Remember, bankers do not like surprises. By keeping them informed and soliciting their advice will help keep your farming operation financially sound.



Background Scripture: Nehemiah 8.

Devotional Reading: Psalms I 19:97-104.

Whenever God speaks to us and we are willing to hear him (which is a big "whenever"), there are two logical reactions to what he communicates to us.

Our first reaction — that is if we have really listened to what he says — is usually one of feeling a sense of guilt at the most or humility at the least. Take all the classic confrontations in the Bible and you will see this illustrated again and again: Moses at the burning bush, Isaiah in the temple, Jeremiah and Ezekiel when called to be prophets, Mary at the annunciation, Paul on the Damascus road. In God's presence all of them are struck humble with the realization of the tremendous gap between themselves and the Lord.

There are numerous occasions in the Bible when the whole nation of Israel reacts in this same manner. One of these is the great assembly in Jerusalem after the temple walls have been completed. Nehemiah is implored to read to them the law. Apparently the law had been much neglected while they were in their Babylonian captivity. Now they want to get back to God's law, so Nehemiah reads it in the original Hebrew while others translate the Hebrew into the Aramaic language which the people had learned from their captors in Babylon.

When they hear the law and realize what God expects of them and when they consider that they have not been living up to his expectations, they are mortified, so that Nehemiah has to say to them, "do not mourn or weep." This does not mean that Nehemiah does not want them to realize their need for national repentance. But

Nehemiah knows that the experience of God's revelation does not end in the grief of repentance. That is just the first step.

THE FIRST STEP

Christians have often done well in learning this first step and Christianity has often been characterized by a sense of holy — and maybe not so holy — sorrow. My earliest perceptions of the church as a very young child were that whatever Christianity was, it must be very sad. Even the most positive mood I found in the church was far short of joy. I concluded — wrongly, as it turned out — that the essential mood of being a Christian was something that was just short of being down-right grim. (I'm sure some of the problem was mine and not just that particular church.)

Nehemiah was gratified by the people's repentance and he now needed to move them to the second step: "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength" (8:10). Repentance was necessary, but one must move from repentance to the joy of the Lord.

To be sure, in the presence of the Lord we are struck with the sense of our own inadequacy and lack of worth. But we need also to realize that the joy of God's love is just as compelling as the grimness of his judgment. If we focus only upon the grief of our sin to the exclusion of the joy of our redemption we have not really heard God's word to us. And half of the message is not enough.

On this occasion at least, the people got the whole message from God through Nehemiah and he tells us: "...all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them" (8:12).

It matters little what we get from our Christian faith if we possess everything but joy. Without joy, we've missed the message.

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