



OPINION

This Must Not Happen

We have been made aware of an important issue which has the potential of negatively affecting our 4-H and FFA youth programs across all states. The issue is the use of unapproved or illegal drugs administered to 4-H/FFA project animals. The illegal use of unapproved and potentially dangerous drugs poses potential health hazards, sets poor examples for youth involved in the exhibition of livestock, reduces public confidence in the livestock industry, and places the participants in violation of show regulations and state and federal law.

The veterinary newsletter from the University of Maryland reported that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ask the university to pay particular attention to the possible use of a drug called clenbuterol in beef, sheep and swine. Clenbuterol is one of a group of drugs called "beta agonists" and acts to increase muscle deposition at the expense of fat in animals. This drug is not allowed in the United States and has no approved use in food producing animals. Clenbuterol is an extremely dangerous drug in that humans consuming meat from an animal which has received clenbuterol can be subjected to a severe and life-threatening reaction.

The food safety issue is of particular importance because it is agriculture's responsibility to help insure the production of safe and wholesome food products for the consumer. The clenbuterol issue goes beyond that of food safety in light of the fact that we are dealing with an illegal drug substance. FDA has stated their intention to use the full authority and resources available to them to investigate and prosecute individuals who illegally import, distribute, sell or use clenbuterol.

In addition to clenbuterol, other drugs have been mentioned as finding misuse in 4-H/FFA project animals. These include sedatives, tranquilizers, diuretics, and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories. Most of these drugs are not approved for use in food-producing animals. The others are restricted by law to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian. A new code of 4-H/FFA ethics was developed and implemented in Maryland this year. This code addresses the issue of illegal drug use in show animals. Only the highest of ethical standards across all youth programs should be used in every state.

If this is happening in ag youth program, you should be reminded of the responsibility to producing safe and wholesome food products. The indiscriminate use of animal drugs by a few exhibitors has the potential of jeopardizing the credibility and image of the entire livestock industry. This must not happen.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, August 31

Susquehanna Co. Holstein Club Sale, Harford Fairgrounds, noon.

Juniata Co. Fair, Port Royal, thru Sept. 7.

Northwest 4-H Dairy Show, Crawford Co. Fairgrounds.

Sunday, September 1

Spartanburg Community Fair, Spartanburg, thru Sept. 7.

Cambria Co. Fair, thru Sept. 7.

Monday, September 2

Waterford Community Fair, Waterford, thru Sept. 7.

Ox Hill Community Fair, Home, thru Sept. 7.

West Alexander Fair, West Alexander, thru Sept. 7.

Tuesday, September 3

Jamestown Community Fair, Jamestown, thru Sept. 7.

Claysburg Farm Show, Claysburg, thru Sept. 7.

Wednesday, September 4

Luzerne Co. Fair, Dallas, thru

Sept. 8.

Beekeeper meeting, Penn State Lab, Biglerville, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 5

Myers Analytical Lab Open House, Littlestown, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Twilight meeting, John M. Pfleeger Farm, Turbotville, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Friday, September 6

Pa. Holstein Fall Championship Show, Ag Arena, Penn State, 9:30 a.m.

York Inter-State Fair, York, thru Sept. 14.

Vegetable growers meeting, Snyder Co. Produce Building, Port Trevorton, 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Saturday, September 7

Mon Valley 4-H Dairy Show, Westmoreland Co. Fairgrounds.

Penn Jersey Crop Management Field Days, Rutgers U. Snyder Farm, Pittstown, N.J., 9 a.m.-3

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NOW IS THE TIME
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Plan On Attending Northeast Poultry Conference

The first Northeast Poultry and Egg Trade Show and Conference will be held September 25 and 26 at the Lancaster Host Resort.

This is a joint effort of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation and the Northeast United Egg Producers. An excellent two-day educational program has been planned.

There will be separate sessions for broiler, egg and turkey production. Topics to be covered include shuttle programs for coccidiosis, ventilation, composting, bronchitis control, a panel on Salmonella enteritidis, nutrition, and the growing poultry and turkey health problems. There is a registration fee for

Farm Forum

Editor:

I have just read P.F.A. Dairy Specialist Mel Eckhaus' remarks on my letter of Aug. 3, 1991 in Lancaster Farming. He says he must clarify a misunderstanding. There is no misunderstanding. He states that in 1988 P.F.A. petitioned the PMMB for a \$1.05 over-order premium. Why? It was because P.F.A., Farm Bureau and some others had backed a \$1.00 per hundred raise in the Federal support that would have raised many more dollars to Pa dairymen than the \$1.05 did.

Secondly, he says that on May 9, 1991 the reason P.F.A. testified to remove the 30¢ so-called oil premium was because oil prices had dropped to pre-war level. He has to be confused on this as our oil prices have not dropped near that amount. And the 5¢ added on for milk hauling for increased fuel cost is still not taken off.

He also adds P.F.A. supplied substantive statistical data to show cost of production had exceeded the farm price of milk, yet P.F.A. helped reduce the milk price by 30¢ per hundred. Mr. Eckhaus says that increasing production was driving prices down, yet according to ag statistic's, cow numbers and production is dropping compared to 1990. When comparing 1990 months to 1991.

And yet we must remember

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the educational sessions.

In addition, there will be a free trade show (no admission charge) from noon to 5 p.m. each day featuring exhibits from companies serving the poultry industry.

This is an excellent conference, and every commercial poultry producer should plan on attending. For more information, contact the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation at (717) 652-7530.

To Consider Using Soybeans As Forage

Drought-stricken soybean plants may be used as a forage crop. Allow plants to mature as much as possible before harvesting.

Some pod or bean development will enhance the feeding value when harvested as either hay or silage. Soybean forages are high in calcium (about 1.3 percent on a DM basis). For this reason, it should be avoided as the major forage for dry cows.

If ensiling, it is important to ensile before plant moisture drops below 60-65 percent. If possible, mix soybeans with other forages, preferably during ensiling, to enhance palatability.

If plants are high in moisture and lack pod or bean development, add 100-200 pounds of ground grain per ton when direct cutting rather than wilting to 60-65 percent moisture.

Stems are not very palatable, and if animals have the opportunity, they will sort them out. Chop-

ping hay and feeding it in a total mixed ration (TMR) will help prevent sorting and stretch forage supplies.

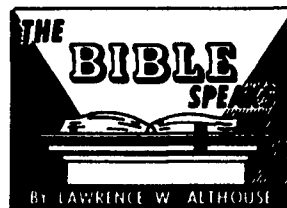
If soybean forage contains substantial amounts of developed beans, reduce the amounts of other fats and oils in the ration or the ration may be too laxative. Soybeans may also be pastured. If cows are removed before all stems are eaten, there may be regrowth.

Pricing Corn Silage

Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, offers the following method of pricing corn silage.

This method involves looking at the value of other feeds you could use instead of corn silage. Two such feeds might be ear corn and grass hay. One ton of corn silage dry matter has about the same feed value as a half ton of ear corn plus a half ton of grass hay. If a half ton of ear corn is worth \$40 and a half ton of grass hay is worth \$40, then their combined value is \$80. That would be the value of one ton of corn silage dry matter. Since one ton of 70 percent moist corn silage contains only 30 percent dry matter, the value of this corn silage is only 30 percent of the ear corn and grass hay or \$24.

This is a base value to be pricing from. In addition to moisture, this price needs to be adjusted for 1) Silage quality (grain content, length of chop, mold, nitrate levels, etc.); 2) transportation costs; and 3) harvesting costs, if you are buying standing corn.



WHO IS CHOSEN?
September 1, 1991

Background Scripture: Acts 7:54 through 8:3, 9:1-22.

Devotional Reading: Acts 22:3-6.

This is a story about God's call to a person and his response. The person called is Saul of Tarsus, soon to be Paul the Apostle. The purpose of the writer of Luke-Acts is to help us understand how Saul the persecutor became Paul the Apostle. All of us probably know well this story: Saul, intent on persecuting the Christians in Damascus, has a paranormal experience with God on the road, is struck blind, is subsequently healed of his blindness in Damascus, and takes up God's challenge to become an apostle.

TO CARRY MY NAME

Paul, of course, is the star of the story. God wants him, not only to cease persecuting the followers of Christ, but, even more important, to do something for him. As God tells Ananias, "...he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel. . ." (Acts 9:15).

As I've already indicated, God called and Saul responded to that call, but there was more to it than that. In order to make his call to Saul, God needed to use some other people, too. One person whom God used — who obviously did not know he was being used — was the High Priest who acceded to Saul's request for letters to the Damascus synagogues permitting Saul to take them into custody. His response to Saul helped to send him on the road to Damascus — and ultimately his encounter with the Lord.

More apparent is Ananias, whom God chose to heal Saul of his blindness. Here is a man who reacted to God's call in much the way we would have reacted: "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done. . ." (22:13). I'd like to help, Lord, but surely you don't mean for me to get involved with this man!?

ANOTHER JUDAS

Another person who played a role in Saul's conversion is Judas (not Iscariot), Saul's host in Jerusalem. And finally "for several days he was with the disciples at Damascus" (19b). I'm sure they were very nervous about the newly-converted Saul, but their obedience to God was stronger than their anxiety.

Who was chosen in this incident? Every one of these people was chosen to play a role. That leaves just one more person who is chosen by God: You!

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