



OPINION

The Prize:

A Unified Pennsylvania DHIA

In an article starting on Page A1 of this week's issue, we have published the tremendously informative and well-researched document about the history of the Pennsylvania DHIA Program. This detailed presentation of the illustrious Pennsylvania program, written by Donald Ace, professor emeritus at Penn State's Dairy Science Extension, shows how PDHIA, maybe more than any other organization, has helped fashion the unique and enviable position of the dairy industry in Pennsylvania.

Unfortunately, this wonderful legacy left to us by our forefathers is in danger of annihilation. What should be a vital and progressive organization into the 21st century may within a few years become simply a monument to past historical achievement.

Frankly, we are shocked by the division and confrontation that has surfaced over the issue of centralization. What should have raised PDHIA to a level superior to any other dairy organization in the nation, has become such a sharp two-edged sword of division that the entire dairy industry of Pennsylvania is in danger of losing its credibility.

We don't blame anyone. We blame everyone involved. At a time when the economic welfare and survival of the individual dairy farm family so much needs unity and mergers to reduce costs of services, we find the largest state dairy fraternity fragmenting itself by division.

Christian brother is pitted against Christian brother. Dairyman against dairyman.

Centralization of PDHIA was to bring all dairymen to the same level of quality service that was experienced by the larger, well-managed counties. But a number of county organizations are now outside the fold because they are not convinced it will be better for them. This bitter division must be diffused immediately.

We are in favor of centralization because many things in the system of dairy record-keeping must be brought up to standards that make them creditable. This can best be done by having one jurisdiction in the state. But to accomplish this state need, people must be brought together by reason and persuasion and agreement rather than by denial of records.

It is time to collectively renew our efforts to build a stronger dairy industry in friendly fellowship rather than continue to have destructive confrontations. Its time to forget those things that are past and press toward the prize of a unified Pennsylvania DHIA. The welfare of the whole dairy industry depends on it.



NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Have Hay Tested Before Feeding

At the recent Pennsylvania Forage Conference, there was a hay judging contest where participants were asked to rank four bales of hay according to quality.

The hay that had the lowest relative feed value was the hay most

Farm Forum

Editor:

I am writing in response to an article titled, "Are Producer Financed Milk Promotions Necessary?" (Lancaster Farming, 11-9-91 Vol. 36 No. 52, Pg. A30).

I am a dairy farmer in Centre County, and I agree that many of our advertising dollars seem to be wasted in the costs of promotion rather than promotion itself. I appreciate your publication's concern for the milk industry, and I would like to ask you to forward a copy of this letter to the proper promotion people who can further consider it. Possibly the Milk Industry Foundation (Washington, D.C.) mentioned in your article.

First of all, the general population needs to be reformed that milk is NOT a health poison. I think that the national dairy promotion board has been working on this, but there is more to do.

2% milk consumption is up, but 4% is greatly declined. People who think they are doing themselves a favor avoid 4% milk like the plague, and then hog down something like macaroni or spaghetti. A box of KRAFT Macaroni and Cheese has a fat content of 25% as served. I realize that these foods use milk products too, but I'm sure the promotion board can see that many foods contain a fat content higher than 4%. Milk needs to be advertised as 96% FAT FREE, and not as 4% milk!

Your article also states that whole milk consumption has not changed in the past 3 decades, and possibly even declined, that soft drink consumption has doubled since 1970. Since soft drink companies have proven by this fact that they know what they are

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people selected as being the best. Had they purchased this hay and fed it to cows, chances are that dry matter intakes and performance would have been less compared to the poorer looking hay.

Thus, there is more to hay quality than what meets the eye and nose. The only way you will be fairly sure of the quality of hay you are feeding is to have it tested. It is especially important this year because of the poor weed control we experienced and the unusual growing conditions we had.

To Apply For Milk Refund

Are you shipping about the same amount or less milk this year compared to last year? Do you have a conservation plan for your farm?

If your answer is yes to both questions, then you might be eligible for a 5 cent per hundred weight refund for the milk you shipped in 1990. How much money is this? If you have a 60-cow herd that averages 15,000 pounds of milk per

cow, your refund would be \$450. For more information and application, contact your local ASCS office.

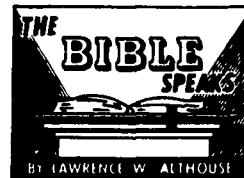
To Consider Pesticide License Update

Farmers with private applicators licenses to apply pesticides to farm land have a new requirement to meet if they use a fumigant.

Fumigation of space, commodities, or soil now requires a special certification for private applicators. The Penn State Office of Pesticide Education has developed educational material to help applicators prepare for this examination.

This material may be ordered by calling Penn State's Department of Independent Learning at (800) 252-3592 and asking for the fumigation educational information. Also, start planning now to attend meetings that will allow you to renew your pesticide license.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Indecision is the graveyard of good intentions."



SUPPOSE THERE'S NO "VICTORY"
December 8, 1991

against great odds they did defeat their enemy, Sisera. So, Deborah and Barak celebrated the victory singing the praises of God who made it possible.

But suppose there had not been a victory? Suppose the battle had been either a draw or a defeat for the people of Israel, would they still sing God's praise?

These are very important questions because life is not a continuous string of victories - for some of us, far from it! There have been times when a loved one did not make it through an illness, when our book was turned down by the publisher, when we did not get the promotion we worked for, and when that for which we hoped and prayed earnestly just didn't happen. Jesus suffered on the cross. Stephen was stoned to death. Paul, although saved from violent death a number of times, eventually, it would appear, was put to death.

So, do we still sing?
STILL A CROSS

It is wonderful to be delivered from a peril or problem in the midst of life. When that happens, let us praise God for it. But that is not our ultimate assurance, just as it was not God's ultimate Providence to Jesus. There are times when, instead of being saved in the nick of time, we have to suffer. God's ultimate promise to us, I believe, is not that we will always be saved from life's perils, but that we are always saved in the midst of those perils. Of course it is more enjoyable for us to get the long-awaited promotion, but it is no less valuable to us to have God's help in dealing with our failure to get it.

So, whether we win or lose the battle, God is with us and he has promised us that He will win the war. The day-to-day fortunes of the struggle are one day "wonderful!" and another "terrible!" But in the long run God will prevail and because of that, so will we.

And that's something to sing about, too!

Background Scripture:
Judges 4:4-5:31.

Devotional Reading: Psalms 81.

Like the song of Moses (Exodus 15:1-18), the song of Deborah and Barak is a victory song that gives voice to their joy for the defeat of their enemy, Sisera:

"Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes, to the Lord I will sing. I will make melody to the Lord, the God of Israel."

What made this victory so sweet was that the people hadn't believed they could not win. The prophetess Deborah had to persuade Barak that with God's help it could be done. Even then, he was dubious: "If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go." Because of this reticence to believe her prophecy, Deborah warned him: "I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of the woman" (4:8,9). Because of Barak's lingering doubts, there would still be victory, but the credit would go to someone else.

You and I might judge Barak as being overcautious - as, under the circumstances, indeed he was. Yet, we should be able to better appreciate his caution, for most of us have stood where he did: was this a message from God, or was it merely from Deborah? Acting upon God's message is difficult because it is not always clear who is the source of it. As it turned out,

Farm Calendar

- Saturday, December 7**
Lancaster Co. 4-H Horse Club banquet, Farm and Home Center, 6:30 p.m.
National 4-H Congress, Chicago, Ill., thru Dec. 13.
- Sunday, December 8**
National 4-H Congress, Chicago, Ill., thru Dec. 13.
- Monday, December 9**
Cumberland Valley Adult Farmers farm refuse and recycling, Cumberland Valley H.S., 8 p.m.
Centre Co. DHIA annual meeting, Penn State Tax Institute, State College, thru Dec. 10.
Holstein Steer Meeting 4, Farm

- and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Northeastern Pa. tomato meeting, Thompson's Dairy Bar, Clarks Summit.
Fayette Co. agronomy meeting, Fayette Co. Area Vocational School, Uniontown, 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Swine educational meeting, York 4-H Center, Bair, 7:15 p.m.-9:45 p.m.
National 4-H Congress, Chicago, Ill., thru Dec. 13.
Hay Auction, Westmoreland Fairgrounds, 11 a.m.

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