



# OPINION

## "Happy New Year To All!"

We come to the end of a year again. The "old" year, 1991, is past, and the "new" year is before us.

As we reflect on the past and make resolutions for the future, we must make some personal adjustments. The key to these adjustments comes from our willingness to say good-bye to some things we cannot keep. Farming is such a roller coaster. The markets go up and down. The children get sick. The excellent cow dies. Or the barn burns.

The key question: when everything else fails, what holds you up? Do we have an inner resolve that carries us through?

A lot in life is not fair. Many occurrences are out of our control. But we must let some things go with the old year, the income you should have had or the cow that should have settled, or the children who left home--we need to say good-bye to the things we cannot keep.

The unkind word someone said to you or about you or the angry exchange you gave to someone else, these must go, too.

If we can't say good-bye, we will not have energy to spend on new and exciting possibilities that come to us with each new page of the 1992 calendar.

So, when we ring in the new year next Tuesday night, let's forget the things of the past we cannot change and cannot keep and move on to creative ways to do better in the new year.

This will insure that our wish for you will come true--our wish for a "Happy New Year To All!"

## Farm Forum

### Editor:

I would like to respond to your article Congressional Inaction Leaves Dairy Farmer's Fate to Market Forces (Lancaster Farming Dec. 14, 1991) on page A-23. This report seems to portray dairy farmers in sorry shape over the current milk price situation, and helpless to do much about it. So far I could agree, and being in dairying myself, I can't help sympathizing.

The big question in my mind is: where will we go for help? To the USDA and our expert lawmakers? Despite their track record of untamed spending and interference in agricultural marketing, these are the government planners we seem to depend on for the survival of our industry. Although we've lived off their assistance for 60 years, we are not much happier now than we were. Yet we continue to hire them to enforce regulations we ourselves cannot even agree on. When new laws are proposed, we scramble to the nearest politician to have them ratified in our favor. When milk prices dip, we plead with them to act quickly. What is this? Do we actually think these people know how to run our farms and sell our milk?

I believe this industry has become lodged in a position more helpless than would be possible if it were plagued by the worst natural disaster or marketing failure. We have allowed the honest procedure of producing and selling

milk to become a political ball game, and it certainly will remain as such so long as we believe our government's false promises of fairness and equality.

I am totally fed up with this system- this bizarre network of pricing mechanisms which perpetually rob us of our freedoms and conceal the true value of our product. Political protections are an insult to our integrity since they shield us from the very competition needed to perfect our standards. Market orders should be abolished completely and prices permitted to stabilize at levels

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## Farm Calendar

- Saturday, December 28**
- Sunday, December 29**
- Monday, December 30**
- Tuesday, December 31**
- Wednesday, January 1**  
Happy New Year!
- Thursday, January 2**  
Red Rose Alliance annual pork and sauerkraut dinner, Churchtown Fire Hall, 11 a.m.

- Professional Turfgrass and Landscape Management, Hunterdon Co., N.J., thru Jan. 20.
- York Co. annual Forage Show, Kennard H.S., 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, January 3**
- Franklin Co. Extension Dairy Day, Kauffman's Community Center, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- York Co. pesticide applicator testing program, Pleasant Acres Complex, 8 a.m.-noon.
- Three-Week Short Course in Professional Turfgrass and Land-

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**NOW IS THE TIME**  
By John Schwartz  
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

### To Note Farm Show Changes

The 76th Pennsylvania State Farm Show will begin in two weeks.

This year there are several changes. These include the show opening on Saturday, January 11 and ending on Thursday, January 16. This means most entry days have been moved up by one day.

Also, a social security number or employer identification number must be supplied with each entry. This number is now being required in order to send out premium checks.

Special attractions include a butter sculpture, more than 5,000 animals, cooking demonstrations, educational exhibits, machinery, commercial agricultural exhibits, the famous food court, milking parlor, exhibit of 400 champion birds, sheep-to-shawl contest, and rodeo.

Farm show premium lists are available from your local cooperative extension office. Note the new days for the show and plan to attend Pennsylvania's largest indoor agricultural event.

### Farmers Are Exempt From Water Monitoring Fees

Farmers who use more than an average of 20,000 gallons of water

per day to irrigate or water poultry and livestock have been exempted from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission's (SRBC) application and compliance monitoring fees.

Richard Cairo, executive secretary of the SRBC, announced this decision after the commission considered testimony of many farmers at a public hearing in October. Farmers who use more than 20,000 gallons of water per day will still be required to apply for a permit.

By applying for a permit, farmers will be registering their current use of water. This will help them increase their access to water during times of future water shortage. This action proves that farmers still can make a difference in government decisions provided they are organized, state the facts, explain the impact of the regulations on them, reasons why the regulations should not be imple-

mented, and speak for themselves.

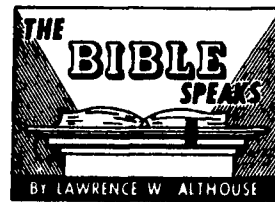
### Antifreeze And Children And Pets

Watch for spills of antifreeze anytime you check your car's radiator this winter. Do not leave spills without cleaning them up and do not leave open containers of antifreeze sitting around that children or pets could drink from.

Many pets may find water hard to find in the winter months or may enjoy the sweet taste of antifreeze. Ethylene glycol, the main ingredient in antifreeze, is very toxic to humans and pets when ingested.

Remember, antifreeze will not evaporate. Therefore, always clean up spills, do not leave old antifreeze sitting around in open buckets and other containers, and always keep antifreeze in the original containers with the safety caps in place.

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "Take time to think — it is the source of power."*



**A LITTLE LESS THAN GOD**  
December 29, 1991

**Background Scripture:** Psalms 8.

**Devotional Reading:** John 1:1-18.

Both the commentaries I consulted indicate that Psalm 8 originally belonged to the evening service in the temple, when those standing in the court of the temple could see the night sky. I can well understand how the Psalmist felt when he said these words for the first time:

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth!

Often when I look into the night sky and see all those pin-points of light, when I realize what a small part of the solar system we are, and even more, what a tiny speck is our galaxy in the whole universe, those words come to me as they did to him. It is then that I realize that my denominational loyalties, withered and pickled by my uninspired human imagination. It takes the vastness of a night sky, the fascination of still another universe revealed by a microscope, or the wonder mirrored in a newborn baby's face to lead me beyond my prosaic understanding of just how majestic are the finger prints of God in the world I can see, let alone those evidence in the world I cannot see or imagine.

### BIG THOUGHTS

And then, when I have thought those big, big thoughts, and tried to see where I cannot see, something makes me look from the heavens to myself and say:

When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers.

The moon and the stars which

thou has established; What is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him?

Two thoughts that seem irreconcilable: the majesty of God and the seeming insignificance of our human nature. The gap between God and our human nature must be greater than the length and breadth of the universe!

That is when I am always brought up short with the words of the Psalmist:

Yet thou hast made him little less than God,

and dost crown him with glory and honor.

"A little less than God"? No, even allowing for poetic license, is it not audacious to say "a little less than God"?

### ROYAL CROWNED

Yes it is audacious, but still, according to the Psalmist, it must be said. Just so that we do not miss his point, he goes on to say that we are crowned "with honor and glory." Only kings and queens are thus crowned and the Psalmist is thus telling us that each and every one of us is royalty in the order of God's creation.

We may not have any trouble believing in the royalty of presidents, kings diplomats, artists, thespians, sports superstars, entertainers, captains of industry, but that isn't what the Psalmist is saying. He is saying that to be a human being, a creature of God, is to occupy a place of royalty in the created order.

Wonderful! Yes, but also intimidating, for if that is the way God has created us, if he has given us "dominion over the works of thy hands," and "hast put all things under his feet," each and every one of us needs to recognize this divine potential and begin to live up to it while there is yet time to do so.

"O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth!" And how great is the potential you have given us!

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