



OPINION

All Roads Lead To The Farm Show

With the new year, agricultural thoughts turn to the annual winter Pennsylvania Farm Show to seek what's new and to make contacts for service and equipment purchases. The farmer inquiries that commercial exhibitors receive at the Farm Show help these agribusinesses to make plans for the coming spring field work season.

In the arenas and other areas where crops, livestock, dairy, and other farm products will be judged, another part of the Farm Show is unveiled. With \$198,266 in premiums for winning entries, Farm Show goers can be assured of some fancy Pennsylvania-grown products to be on display.

Then there will be the meetings. The Farm Women have a big day. And anyone who has never seen the pageantry of the FFA annual meeting at the Forum should go just to be inspired with hope for the future from our youth in agriculture and agribusiness.

A lot of people talk about the "Farm Show Weather," which usually means snow. So far this year, the weatherman has only recorded a "trace" of snow for the Harrisburg area. Will the Farm Show bring out the first good snow blizzard of the season? We'll know next week.

On a more economic note, the impact that agriculture has on the entire economy of the State cannot be overstated. Twenty percent of the jobs in Pennsylvania are dependent on agriculture. Cash income from farm marketings in 1990 was \$3.78 billion. All things considered, this is not just a show for farmers. From Beaver To Bucks and from Tioga to Fulton and from all the counties in between, all roads lead to Harrisburg. From January 11 to 16, 1992, all roads lead to the Farm Show.

Farm Forum

Editor:

I would like to start this letter with a press release from the Virginia Milk Commission.

Farmers get more for milk

Most of Virginia's dairy farmers will get about four cents more per gallon for raw milk, beginning Dec. 1.

The state milk commission voted Nov. 6 to increase eastern Virginia's milk base price from \$16.85 per hundredweight to \$17.26 per hundredweight.

Ira W. Harlow, deputy administrator for the Virginia Milk Commission said many producers have been receiving less than the cost of production for their milk for more than a year.

I believe going to Washington looking for higher milk prices is like beating a dead horse. Farmers are going to have to go to their state

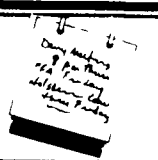
governments, explain why a healthy dairy industry is good economically, and seek higher prices.

I read an article recently that said for every five dairy farms that go out of business, one rural business closes also. Vermont was losing farms so fast that the state started paying farmers \$1.00 per hundred for their production because the loss of cows was hurting the tourist industry.

I would like to see the Pa. Milk Marketing Board take over pricing for the state. I would also urge farmers to attend the Milk Marketing Board hearing to be held on Thursday, January the 9th at 9:00 a.m. in Room 309 of the Agriculture Building in Harrisburg. It is across Cameron Street from the Farm Show Building.

Dave Jenkins
Meyersdale

Farm Calendar



Saturday, January 4

Wayne Co. Livestock Health Management Workshop, John Marshall's, Beach Lake, 10 a.m.-noon.

Sunday, January 5

Penn State Ice Cream Short Course, J.O. Keller Conference

Monday, January 6

Lancaster Co. annual Tobacco

Tuesday, January 7

Lancaster Co. annual Tobacco (Turn to Page A31)

NOW IS THE TIME
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Develop Budgets

Budgeting with or without the aid of a computer allows you to see on paper the results of various alternatives.

By taking time now to budget out on paper your anticipated costs and receipts, you will give yourself an idea of what production standards must be met in order to break even or needed to make the level of profit desired.

Historical farm records will give you an idea of what your average yield is and the range of yields you have experienced in the last 10 years. These figures are very important in establishing the assumptions for your budget.

Remember, a budget is an estimate of the future. While trying to be realistic in your figures, work in round numbers and do not try to account for every cent. By using averages and working on a per unit figure (for example, per acre, per cow, per hen housed), will take a lot of the drudgery out of budgeting.

By budgeting, you could keep yourself from investing time, money, and other resources in a losing situation while placing these same resources in a more profitable enterprise.

To Review Milking Preparation Procedure

Proper preparation of dairy cows for milking is very important for the production of quality milk, efficient milkout, and for the prevention of mastitis.

About one minute before milking, dry wipe loose dirt from cows' teats, remove a few streams of milk, and fully immerse the teat in a pre-dip sanitizer solution. This will do a lot to prevent cows from becoming infected with environ-

Center, University Park, thru Jan. 16.

Mercer Co. Dairy Workshop, Extension Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; repeats Jan. 13.

Advanced Commodity Marketing Seminar, Part II, Cecil Co., Md. Extension Office, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

Lancaster Co. annual Tobacco (Turn to Page A31)

mental mastitis. It also minimizes the risk of environmental organisms getting into the milk supply.

Wait one half minute and then attach the milker units. Remove the units as soon as the cow is milked out. The teats should again be dipped in a post-dip solution to sanitize the teat ends. Always keep the udder and teats as dry as possible.

Remember, since mastitis organisms may be spread by your hands, dip your hands in a bucket of sanitizer solution as you move from cow to cow.

To Protect Pesticides From Freezing

Pesticide storage during freezing weather is important and

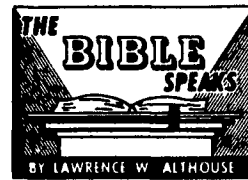
should not be overlooked for those leftover or newly purchased pesticides.

Year round, pesticides need to be maintained, secured, and properly supervised. But during winter weather, many pesticides must also be protected from freezing.

Low temperatures, freezing, and damp conditions may affect the effectiveness of pesticides. Pesticide storage facilities should be a separate, secured, heated, and dry building and protected from sunlight.

Cold temperatures may crystallize liquid pesticides and cause them to break storage containers or change their chemical makeup.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Take time to play — it is the secret of perpetual youth."



NEARER THAN YOUR LOCAL CHURCH
January 5, 1992

Background Scripture: Psalms 84.

Devotional Reading: Psalms 90.

I have always regarded the 84th Psalm as a hymn of joy composed by someone who is either making the pilgrimage to Zion, or has just completed one. I was surprised, therefore, to find that Biblical scholar Samuel Terrien in his *The Psalms and Their Meaning for Today* (Bobbs Merrill, 1952), regards the Psalmist as someone in exile who, out of his "religious homesickness," is expressing a deep sense of melancholy at his distance from God's Temple.

There may be plaintiveness in his realization that "Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young at thy altars..." (84:3). Is this what Jesus meant when he said, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head" (Matthew 8:20). So, perhaps it is with spiritual envy that the Psalmist exclaims, "Blessed are those who dwell in thy house, ever singing thy praise!" and he is saying, in a sense, "Oh that I were there too!" If that is so, I can better understand his lament, "My soul longs, yea faints..." (84:2).

NO EDIFICE COMPLEX

I had always also assumed that the Psalmist is rhapsodizing over the Temple itself: "How lovely is thy dwelling place..." But Prof. Terrien tells us that it is not God's Temple that is the object of the Psalmist's longing, but the God who is experienced in that Temple. Wonderful as God's "dwelling place" may be, no matter how much we may long for "the courts of the Lord," it is not the building or even the place that is paramount, but God himself: "my heart and flesh sing for joy to

the living God," not his Temple.

The Psalmist remembers not only the glory of being in God's Temple, but also the wonderful experience of making the pilgrimage to get there. He remembers that even in the midst of the desert wastelands, God gave him and others the strength to go on: "Blessed are the men whose strength is in thee ... They go from strength to strength" (84:5-7). No matter how difficult the way, he found that his faith in God brought him the daily strength he needed to finish the pilgrimage. Sometimes Baca is associated with *bekah*, "tears," so that this is possibly an allusion to God turning the "tears" in his barren place to the "springs" and "pools" of a landscape that figuratively blooms.

AS IN HIS PRESENCE

Then the Psalmist makes a discovery: separation from the temple cannot keep him from God's presence. "Blessed are the men...in whose heart are the highways to Zion" (84:5). Blessed is the man who trusts in thee!" (84:12). God can live in our hearts as well as in our temples and it is in our trust that we are able to know his presence, as Emerson put it "closer than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet."

At this point, the mystic becomes a moralist: "No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly" (84:11). To "walk uprightly" is a Hebrew phrase which Terrien says means "to behave as if in the continuous of God, without any attempt at concealment..." If, because we are in the continuous presence of God that presence means not only his everpresent help, but his everpresent expectation for us to live unashamed in his sight.

No matter how near your church is, God is always nearer. And all of us can join St. Augustine in saying, "I sought thee at a distance, and did not know thou wast near."

(Note: join the 30th Ski & Spa Holiday in Badgastein Austria with the Althouses March 6-21. Friendship Tours, 4412 Shenandoah Ave., Dallas, TX 75205.)

UNCLE OTIS, THIS IS FRED, DOWN AT THE 'FIX-IT SHOP'. WE FINALLY GOT THAT PIECE IN...



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