



OPINION

Big Barn Meeting Of Farmers

We think it's time to invite everyone to a big barn meeting and really get united for the cause of the dirt farmer.

Farmers are constantly called upon to foot the bill for services, promotions and expenses that have little to do with their own on-the-farm needs.

When you think about it, a milk or other commodity check-off to help an ad agency duplicate the efforts of another ad agency or to support a government food give-away program, would be better put back into the farmer's pocketbook before it is ever removed. In fact, we could never really understand why the cost of advertising milk was not passed on to the consumer rather than back to the farmer. You can be sure you paid for the cost of getting yourself to buy your last new pick-up truck.

State government is fond of saying that one out of five jobs in Pennsylvania is dependent on agriculture. This is stated to show farmers that government knows a lot about farming. However, if you look at it another way, what they really say is that 20 percent of the job holders in Pennsylvania take a cut out of the farmer's milk or other income check.

Industrial companies unite and combine resources and responsibilities all the time. If it will help farmers keep some extra money in their pockets, why not merge farm organizations as well? And for something refreshingly different, why not put a milk check-off on the consumer's income for a while too?

A big barn meeting of farmer directors from every organization in agriculture demanding that this happen would be the first step.

Signs Of A Good Cow

She's long in her face, she's fine in her horn,
She'll quickly get fat without cake or corn,
She's clean in her jaws and full in her chin,
She's heavy in flank and wide in her loin.

She's broad in her ribs and long in her rump,
A straight and flat back without e'er a hump.
She's wide in her hips and calm in her eyes,
She's fine in her shoulders and thin in her thighs.

She's light in her neck and small in her tail,
She's wide in her breast and good in the pail.
She's fine in her bone and silky of shin,
She's a grazier's without and a butcher's within.

Leavitt's 1862

Found in *America and Her Almanacs* by Robb Sagendorph, pg. 216.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, January 11

Farm Show Begins!

Pennsylvania Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Jan. 16.

Sunday, January 12

Pennsylvania Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Jan. 16.

Monday, January 13

Pennsylvania Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Jan. 16.

Mid-Atlantic Fruit Variety Showcase, Hyatt Hotel, Richmond, Va., 3 p.m.-6 p.m.

Mercer Co. Dairy Workshop, Extension Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Hay Auction, Westmoreland Co. Extension, Westmoreland Fairgrounds, 11 a.m.

Tuesday, January 14

Pennsylvania Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru Jan. 16.

Area tax meeting, Holiday Inn, Hazelton.

New Jersey annual vegetable meeting, Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort, thru Jan. 16.

Woody Ornamental Plant Identification Course, Neshaminy Manor Center, Doylestown, Jan. 14-15 and Jan. 21-22, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

"Improving Swine Production Efficiency," television short course, broadcast January 14, 21, and 28, downlinked to Berks Campus, Reading.

Bradford-Sullivan Forest Land-

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NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Understand Vaccination Failures

The primary reason to vaccinate animals is to reduce economic loss due to sickness and mortality caused by infectious diseases. A good vaccine protects animals by providing a response that is controlled, predictable, effective, measurable, and safe.

The success of a vaccination depends on the proper application. Most common causes of vaccine failure include:

- Improper handling and storage of live vaccines.
- Choice of improper or inadequate strains for the disease problem.
- Undue stress on the animal being vaccinated.
- Inadequate priming for killed vaccines.
- Improper timing.
- Bacterial contamination of vaccine, diluent, or vaccination equipment.

Proper vaccination is a very important key for success in animal agriculture. Review your procedures and take time to make sure you are vaccinating your animals properly.

To Reduce the Rate of Forced Culling

One way to upgrade a dairy herd is to cull out the low producing cows.

Last year, the average culling rate for Pennsylvania dairymen on DHIA was 31 percent. However, of the cows that were culled, 75 percent were forced culling — cows removed due to such problems as poor conception, mastitis, etc. Only 25 percent were removed for low milk production or sold to someone else.

When the rate of forced culling increases, the opportunity for upgrading the herd by selectively culling out low producers is greatly reduced.

This winter, cooperative extension will be holding many meetings addressing topics on how dairymen could reduce their forced culling rates. Plan to attend meetings near you, learn about ways to improve your dairy management skills, and take them home and implement them.

Many farmers could improve

their situation by making sure they are doing things right the first time and doing them on time. As new Master Farmer Paul Waybright said, "We do not do anything real outstanding. But we are consistent." Consistency and repeatability is what we should be striving for.

To Explore Joint Life Insurance

As land values continue to rise in many parts of Pennsylvania, farmers need to be concerned about transferring their assets to the next generation without having to liquidate substantial portions of the farm to pay the inheritance taxes.

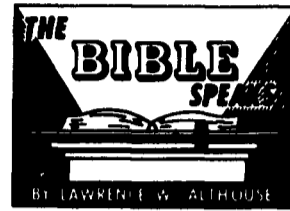
Any couple with assets totaling more than \$600,000 have a potential federal estate tax problem. Life

insurance is often used to provide funds to pay these taxes. "Joint-life," "survivorship life," or "second-to-die" life insurance is now available from several life insurance companies.

The unique feature about this policy is that proceeds are not paid until the second insured person dies, which is usually when the federal inheritance tax is due. By including both a husband and a wife in one policy, more coverage may be obtained for a given premium than by insuring each person separately.

If you have a potential inheritance tax problem, take time to contact your insurance agent and ask about "joint-life" insurance.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Take time to read — it is the foundation of wisdom."



DON'T FORGET THE BENEFITS

January 12, 1992

Background Scripture: Psalms 103.

Devotional Reading: Psalms 146.

Today in rummaging through my credit card company file, I found a statement from a particular credit card outlining the various benefits available to those who use their cards: excess collision loss/damage insurance for car rentals, "Buyers Security" for accidental damage, fire and theft on anything within 90 days of the purchase date, extended warranty on all purchases, guaranteed travel insurance, ready cash, and even frequent flyer points of a particular airline. "Don't forget your benefits!" the brochure advised.

Actually, that is pretty good advice for me. I'm not a big user of credit cards and I tend to forget that there are more benefits than simply establishing credit to rent a car or book a hotel room. The same is true of my relationship with God. When things are going pretty well with my life, I tend to forget about "all His benefits." It is only when I am in some difficulty, whether imposed from without or within, that I am reminded what God does for me personally. What are those benefits? The Psalmist lists them:

who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's
VERY PERSONAL

No credit card company, no self-help program, no product on the market, no club or association offers me that kind of a deal. I've

got a great thing going here and I need to remind myself and join the Psalmist in singing: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" (103:1).

Scholars believe that the Psalmist is someone who has experienced both great personal adversity and rescue, so that this hymn begins as a very personal response. God has healed him and helped him in the midst of affliction. God has provided him with "good" throughout his life. So, it is not enough for us to acknowledge God's goodness in only general terms. We must seek out, recognize and respond to all the things He does, first of all, in our own lives.

Yet, having started on this intensely personal level, He moves from the personal to the corporate. We cannot praise God for what He has done for us personally without giving thanks for what He has done others. As He is concerned for me, God "works vindication for all who are oppressed." All Israel has been blessed by God's grace. So, we too, if we start with our personal thanks, must be able to move toward corporate thanksgiving, too. Otherwise our praise may be nothing else than sheer selfishness.

2 POLARITIES

The Psalmist is struck by two polarities. On the one hand there is the permanency and pervasiveness of God's goodness: "He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities" (103:17). Furthermore, although everything else decays and passes away, "the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear him" (103:17). The other polarity is the transitory nature of human life: "As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone..."

Realizing these two great truths, the Psalmist abandons his solitary song of praise and calls all creatures great and small everywhere to join in praise: "Bless the Lord, O you angels... all his hosts... all his works."

Lancaster Farming

Established 1955

Published Every Saturday

Ephrata Review Building

1 E. Main St.

Ephrata, PA 17522

— by —

Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Stenman Enterprise

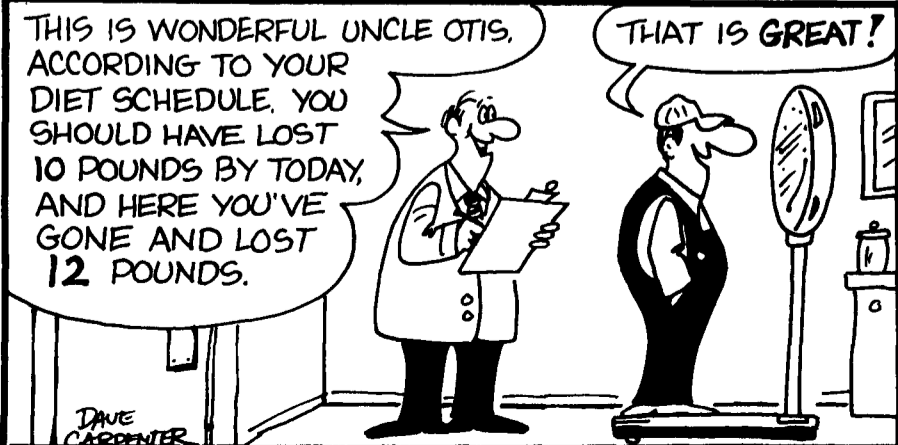
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THIS IS WONDERFUL UNCLE OTIS, ACCORDING TO YOUR DIET SCHEDULE, YOU SHOULD HAVE LOST 10 POUNDS BY TODAY, AND HERE YOU'VE GONE AND LOST 12 POUNDS.

THAT IS GREAT!



CAN I GO OUT AND EAT BACK ON TWO POUNDS?

