



# OPINION

## Ownership Shared By The Hired Help?

The current DHIA situation is changing so rapidly that we hesitate to write anything for fear of being outdated by press time. But given the illustrious history of DHIA, there are a few things worth noting in this time of change.

A dairyman primarily obtains production records for use as management data to be used for appraisal of the status of the present herd and to plan for future improvement: Culling, feeding, reproduction, mastitis, milk production, fat yield, protein yield and conditions affecting the records are some of the important management data needed by dairy farmers and their advisors.

Sire and cow evaluations, pedigrees, university and USDA research analysis, newsletters, demonstrations, and educational programs are all valuable uses of DHIA records. But these later functions are secondary to the all important management use value to the herd owners.

Because DHIA data should be nearly as private as financial records and since dairy farmer members contract for their collection, the data should belong solely to the individual farm owner. DHIA's contract with the farmer for a fee to do the service of milk weighing, sample collection, data summarization, and reporting of the information. As with membership in a farm supply cooperative, breeding cooperative, or farm credit cooperative, farmers have the right to choose their service provider and level of service.

Records are produced in different forms such as handwritten, typewritten or computer digested forms. Since the dairyman makes the records by feeding and otherwise caring for his cows and since the dairyman also pays to have these records recorded and analyzed, we believe even the computer form of the DHIA record belongs to the herd owner.

If ownership is shared by the hired help, then the owners are numerous, State DHIA, universities involved, contributing AI cooperatives, County DHIA, federated units, breed organizations, and others. All could lay claim to have some part in the ownership of the farmer's private records.

Where should ownership stop if the records are not the sole property of the farmer whose cows produced them and who paid to have them recorded and summarized? How can a farmer be assured of the confidentiality of his personal data if ownership is otherwise?



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

**To Store Pesticides Properly**  
The proper storage of pesticides is a must.

Current government regulations require pesticides to be stored so they do not present a hazard to the environment, employees, family, and the public.

Prefabricated weatherproof buildings offer a good solution to pesticide storage. These buildings may remove chemical hazards from other buildings, meet fire safety codes, provide environmental control, provide secondary containment for accidental spills, and comply with appropriate storage regulations.

There are several manufacturers of these prefabricated, insulated storage buildings. Units are available with a fire rating of two hours, making them safe for location close to existing structures.

The structure is basically steel with a chemical resistant epoxy-coated surface and painted with a white reflective paint. Pallet-wide doors assure easier loading of material. Units are self-standing and may be secured to a simple concrete pad.

By having a proper pesticide storage facility, you will be reducing your risk of having a very costly pesticide accident and fines.

### To Prevent Falls

Falls are a major cause of disability, and also the cause of many of the less serious but still painful injuries on the farm.

Prevent falls and avoid unneces-

- Dairy Day, Lycoming Mall.
- Franklin Co. Corn Clinic, Kauffman's Community Center, 9 a.m.-2:45 p.m.
- Pa. Fruit Grower's annual meeting, Hershey Convention Center, thru Jan. 30.
- Southwest Pa. Dairy Breeding Workshop, Armstrong and Indiana counties, Andy Kayes Restaurant, Shelocta, repeats Feb. 4.

Pa. Holstein Assoc. Southcentral Championship Show planning meeting, Western Sizzlin', Harrisburg, 10:30 a.m.

"Improving Swine Production (Turn to Page A11)

sary pain and disability by:

- Watching your step and where you are going.
- Choose the appropriate footwear for the activity.
- Make sure ladders are in good condition and properly set for stability. Follow the four-to-one rule — one foot out at the base for every four feet up.
- Clear snow and ice from outdoor walks and steps.
- Watch your step and use handholds when climbing on and off farm equipment. By thinking safety, you should reduce your chances of having a serious fall.

### To Understand Guidelines For Selecting Alfalfa Varieties

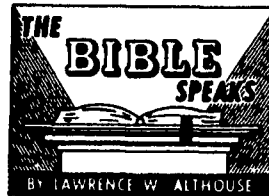
When selecting an alfalfa variety to grow, base the decision on several criteria.

Look for variety trail reports which are conducted in the same climate region and under similar soil conditions which you have on your farm. Whenever possible, use trial results from several locations.

What we are looking for is repeatability and consistency. Performance by year is important but you should place more weight on yields over a several year period. Varieties which produce well and decline rapidly will not look good when several years of data at the same field site are examined. Whenever possible, use trials which rate varieties on their disease resistance to the diseases which are common in your area.

Anthracnose continues to be the most widespread disease in Lancaster County.

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "Take time to love and be loved — it is a God-given privilege."*



He Looked for Justice  
January 26, 1992

Background Scripture: Isaiah 5:1-7.

Devotional Reading: Psalms 51.

The Prophet Isaiah had a message for the people of Israel. It was a message they would not want to hear, so how would he get it across to them?

It would appear that his solution was to put the message in the form of a parable which, in turn, would be expressed in a song. People listened to songs even when they refused to listen to prophetic preaching. It is believed that he wrote this song for the celebration of the feast of the tabernacles a kind of harvest thanksgiving festival that was widely celebrated throughout the land. In such a festive mood, people would be more likely to listen to his song and consider the meaning of the parable.

The Prophet begins by announcing his song: "Let me sing for my beloved a love song concerning his vineyard" (5:1). Already in a party mood, the people at the celebration must have turned their attention to Isaiah as soon as he announced "a love song." It was a love song, but a different kind of love of a vinedresser for his vineyard. Note that all that he does, he does, not out of a sense of duty, but out of love for his vineyard. He loves his vineyard so much that he does everything possible to make it fruitful.

### JUDGE YOURSELF!

The Prophet is also wise in asking his hearers to judge themselves, even if at first they do not realize it. "What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it?" (5:4). This is what the

Prophet Nathan did with David (2 Samuel 12:1-12). Jesus also employed similar methods at times. It is interesting to note although we often speak of trying to discover what God wants of us, very often we already know very well what he wants. Our problem then is not that we don't know the will of God, but that we don't do it.

What we see in this parable is unreturned love. The vinedresser did everything possible for his vineyard, but in return the vineyard failed to yield what he had a right to expect. Lots of us experience this in our lives: our love may be unappreciated, unnoticed and unreturned. Or perhaps we have been the recipients of lots of love which we have failed to return. That's the way it is with God, too. Things go awry in this world, not because there is a lack of divine love permeating every nook and cranny of the universe, but because there is an appalling lack of human love in response. **DISAPPOINTING GOD**

This is the way it was with God and Israel. In his song, Isaiah sings: "For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness but behold a cry!" (5:7). It is interesting that Jesus turned this whole question around when, in speaking of the love of God, he said, "Or what man of you, if his son asks for him bread will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?" (Matt 7:9). God does not disappoint us, but we do disappoint him.

Note, that Isaiah links justice and righteousness. All too often Christians have pursued the latter, but not the former, assuming that one could be personally righteous without becoming involved in other people's struggles for justice. "He looked for justice, but behold bloodshed; for righteousness — as the Sammy Kahn song says, "love and marriage go together like the horse and carriage... You can't have one without the other!"

## Farm Calendar

### Saturday, January 25

- Butler Co. annual meeting.
- Pa. Holstein Association Butler Co. annual meeting, Garden State Restaurant, 11:30 a.m.
- Pa. Holstein Association Huntingdon Co. annual meeting, Juniata Valley School, Petersburg, 7:30 p.m.

### Sunday, January 26

### Monday, January 27

- New York State Vegetable Growers Association Conference, Rochester Convention Center and Holiday Inn, Genesee Plaza, Rochester.
- Pennsylvania Game Bird Conference, Days Inn, State College, thru Jan. 28.
- New York State Sweet Corn Research Association annual

meeting, Riverside Convention Center, Holiday Inn, Genesee Plaza, Rochester.

- Pa. Dairy Promotion Program annual meeting, Atherton Hilton, State College, 10:30 a.m.
- Southwest Pa. Hay Auction.
- Adams Co. Corn Clinic, York Springs Fire Hall, 9 a.m.
- Centre Co. pesticide certification update training meeting, Penns Valley Area H.S., Spring Mills, 8 p.m.
- Octorara Young Farmers Association pesticide meeting, Octorara H.S. Ag Ed Room, 7:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, January 28

- Pennsylvania Vegetable Conference and Trade Show, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, thru Jan. 30.

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