



OPINION

Become A Dairy Of Distinction

The Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Program was first initiated in 1983 to recognize the hard work and dedication of dairy owner/operators who maintain attractive, well-kept farms-treads. Its purpose is two-fold: to promote a positive dairy industry image and to instill in consumers a greater sense of confidence in the wholesomeness of dairy products.

Since consumers generally observe dairy farms as they drive by, farms that apply are judged on the roadside appearance of buildings, grounds, and surroundings. Also taken into consideration are the conditions of other aspects of the farm operation such as cleanliness of animals, the barnyard, feed areas and manure management. Roadside farm judging takes place in the month of May each year. Winners are judged annually to ensure that they continue to meet the standards of excellence set by the beautification program. All active dairy farms in New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey are eligible to apply for the award.

The program is administered by volunteers, and the operating budget is very small. The program is worthy of any dairy farmer's support. And if you have a nice looking dairy farm, you will want to apply for the distinction. Show your commitment to your industry; become a Dairy of Distinction.



Editor:

Here is one of the youngest readers of your paper. My husband loves your paper so he shows it to everyone, even our youngest grandson. Our children call the *Lancaster Farming*, dad's bible, because he reads it on Sunday mornings. Old ones are handed down to the grand children. Mike here, thinks it is a paper just for him. He looks at the farm machinery or for pictures of cows. It's never too early to start the boys dreaming about farming. Mike is only 17 months old. The *Lancaster Farming* has taken us on many trips looking for bargains. It even got us off the farm for four days when my husband saw a tractor he wanted advertised for sale in Illinois.

Mr. & Mrs. George Hines
Union Bridge, MD

Farm Calendar

Saturday, April 4

Pennsylvania Holstein Showcase Sale, Ag Arena, State College, 10 a.m.

8th and final Toastmasters' Meeting, Farm and Home Center, 8:30 a.m.

Wye Angus Field Day and Sale. Sheep Shearing School, Gary Vanhorn Farm, Mt. Pleasant Mills, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Northwest Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers meeting, Centerville Methodist Church, 7 p.m.

Northeastern Dairy Conference, Omni Inner Harbor, Baltimore, through April 7.

Sunday, April 5
National 4-H Conference

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NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

Consumers Eating At Home

People are eating more meals at home. In 1989 and 1990, consumer purchases of food to be eaten at home grew faster than the total amount spent for food away from home.

This represents a reversal of a 30-year trend of increased food spending at restaurants, fast food, cafeterias, etc.

When consumers spend more on food purchases for the home, the farmer receives a larger share of the expenditure. If the food is prepared at home, the farmer receives 30 cents of every dollar spent compared with approximately 16 cents for every dollar spent for food at restaurants, etc.

To encourage this trend, farmers need to be looking at ways to package their food products to fit the lifestyles of today's consumers. This includes packaging eggs in smaller sizes than a dozen, vegetables in packages ready to eat or cook, and the development of microwave products.

Also, more people are packing their lunch instead of eating out.

Now is the time to tap into these new marketing opportunities. Whenever you are able to add perceived value or convenience to your product, the more profit you should generate.

Give consumers ideas they could use in preparing your product at home or for their pack lunch.

To Evaluate Irrigation

With last summer's drought, many farmers are considering purchasing an irrigation system.

The decision to irrigate is a difficult one. If you are thinking about

Farm Forum

Editor:

I was confused by your March 14 story "Barley Withdraws Support of Nutrient Management Bill." I was confused for two reasons. First, you presented Rep. Barley's accusations that Rep. Jeffrey Coy kept him out of the nutrient management debate, but you never gave Rep. Coy's side of the

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buying an irrigation system, Dr. Albert Jarrett, Penn State Agricultural Engineer, offers the following points to consider:

- Do you have adequate water supply? Sprinkler irrigation systems require approximately 30,000 gallons of water for every inch of water supplied to an acre. Flow rates may be as high as 10 gallons per minute per acre. Drip or trickle irrigation systems will require less water per acre.

- Are you willing to dedicate the time and energy necessary to manage the irrigation system? System installation, moving, maintenance, and management all take a firm time commitment.

- Are you willing to invest in the long-term future of your operation? Planning, designing, and installing an irrigation system takes time. It is seldom possible to buy and install an irrigation system

in the middle of a drought and receive any benefit. The system must be installed and ready to go when dry weather hits.

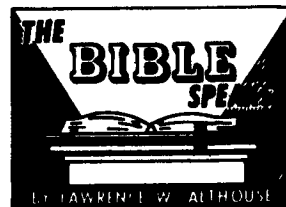
Remember, if you are in the Susquehanna and the Delaware River Basins, you should contact them and discuss your irrigation plans to avoid future problems.

To Turn Your Clocks Up One Hour

This weekend we turn our clocks up one hour for daylight savings time. Do not forget to turn your clock up one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

Nothing is more embarrassing than to show up for church one hour late on Sunday morning.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not an act, but a habit."



CAN YOU COMMAND LOVE?
April 5, 1992

Background Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Mark 12:28-37.

Devotional Reading: John 15:9-17.

It is said that the rabbis of Israel in the time of Jesus calculated that the Law contained 365 prohibitions — one for every day of the year! — and 249 positive commands. Some rabbis contended that among these 613 commandments, that they were equally important. Obviously, not all rabbis felt that way, because one of the scribes came to Jesus asking "Which commandment is first of all?" (Mark 12:28).

Jesus could have given a much safer answer than he did. He might have said "Well, this one is probably first, but all the others are important, too." Instead, however, Jesus boiled down all the commandments to just two: "Love the Lord Your God" from Deuteronomy 6:4 and "your neighbor as yourself" from Leviticus 19:18b. "There is no other commandment greater than these," concluded Jesus (12:29-31). Apparently, the scribe's question had been sincere, because when Jesus answers it, his response is very positive and Jesus commends him, saying: "You are not far from the kingdom of God" (12:34).

So, Jesus and the scribe both agree that all of the Jewish law could be summed up in the commandment to love both God and one's neighbor. That's quite a bit of distillation! Six hundred thirteen commandments summarized in two! And actually, that summary is still good for Christians today. When we get confused and lost in theological questions and conflicts, we need to remember that the essence of Christianity is

not the way we verbalize what we believe, but to love both God and one's neighbor with all the fullness we can muster.

But there's the problem, isn't it? How much love can we muster? Jesus describes it as loving God "with all your heart ... soul ... mind ... and ... strength." That's quite a bit of love, isn't it? Maybe it is more love than many of us can manage. Have you ever been around someone who seems to be pure love? My own reaction has vacillated between admiration, shame and annoyance. In the presence of a truly loving person I may feel very inadequate. I confess this freely because I rather imagine that some of you readers have the same problem. When Jesus commands us to love God and our neighbor, I can't help wondering if it is possible to command love.

AGAPE LOVE

The problem is that, although I know better, I keep forgetting what love really is. I keep thinking of love as something that primarily is feeling. In his little book, *New Testament Words*,* William Barclay reminds us that, although we have but one word for love in English, the Greeks had no fewer than four: eros or love between the sexes, storge which is family affection, philia meaning affectionate regard, and agape. In the first three, there is a considerable feeling of warmth — from lukewarm to hot! These are emotions of the heart. But, according to Barclay, agape has to do with the mind. Says Barclay, "It is a principle by which we deliberately live. Agape has supremely to do with the will." It is a deliberate willing to seek the highest for others, regardless of how we may feel about them. They are lovable only in one sense — we cannot feel loving toward them — but they are not really unlovable because we can always will to do the right thing for them. In love, good feeling is nice, but not essential.

So can love be commanded? God cannot command us to feel loving toward everyone, but he can — and does — command us to do the loving thing, no matter how we may feel.



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