



OPINION

Basic Nutrition

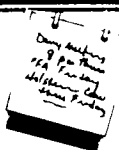
The National Milk Producers Federation recently teamed up to meet a serious challenge to milk's image posed by news stories that most milk contains either too much or too little Vitamin D.

Publication of a study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* claimed that 71 percent of milk and all infant formula sampled, contained either too much or too little Vitamin D. The samples were purchased in stores from Maine to Virginia. The study was prompted by reports of a number of cases of Vitamin D intoxication that occurred when a single Massachusetts dairy fortified its milk with 500 times the amount of vitamin D claimed on its labels.

Both the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the study's authors were quick to point out that Vitamin D fortified milk posed no serious health threat to the public and that people need have no fear of drinking milk. FDA also pointed out that the eight cases of hypervitaminosis D reported in the *Journal* were the only cases ever reported since milk began being commonly fortified with Vitamin D in the 1930's.

The dairy industry and the FDA needs to speak out quickly to reassure the public that the nation's milk supply posed no health threat. We don't know why a dairy would overdose vitamin D in milk, but we do know that milk "does a body good." And we don't want to see anything keep consumers from receiving this basic nutrition for their health.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, May 30

Eastern Regional Emu Chapter Seminar, Eden Resort Hotel, Lancaster, 9 a.m.
Open Western Horse Show, Fair Hill Grounds, 9 a.m.
Wayne County Dairy Princess Pageant, Belmont Fire Hall, Pleasant Mount, 7:45 p.m.

Sunday, May 31

Monday, June 1

Tuesday, June 2

Wednesday, June 3

Dairy Day at Three Rivers Stadium, Pittsburgh, 3 p.m.

Thursday, June 4

Southeast Pennsylvania Twilight Fruit Growers Meeting, Overlook Orchards, Coplay, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, June 5

Delmarva Chicken Festival and Chicken Cooking Contest, Salisbury, Md., thru June 7.
World Pork Expo, Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines, thru June 7.

Ag Issues Breakfast Meeting, Southern Market Center, Lancaster, 7:30 a.m.-9 a.m.

Saturday, June 6

Junior Livestock Day, Penn State Meats Laboratory, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Maryland and Open English Horse Show, Hopewell Training Center, 9 a.m.

Urban Forestry Workshop, Berks Co. Ag Center, Leesport, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Pa. Limousin Association Field Day, Fayette County Fairgrounds, Uniontown, thru June 7.

Chester County Dairy Princess Pageant, Herr's Tourist Center, Nottingham, 7:30 p.m.

Franklin County 4-H Beef Club 4-H Beef Spring Preview Show, Shippensburg Fairgrounds.

Antique Engine Tractor and Toy Club annual show, Kempton Community Center, thru July 7.
Selecting Trees for Community Investment, Berks County Agricultural Center, Leesport, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 7

Hobbes Retirement Open House, Shadow Brook Inn & Resort, Tunkhannock, 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Monday, June 8

Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider Dairy Farms
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Farm Forum

On June 15, 1992 all eyes in the Dairy Industry will be focused on Alexandria, Va. This is the day the United States Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) will commence a national dairy hearing to receive testimony from interested parties regarding the possibility of an alternative basic pricing formula to the Minnesota-Wisconsin (M-W) price series.

The public hearing is dictated by the 1990 Farm Bill.

Currently the U.S.D.A. uses the M-W price as the minimum price for milk under all federal milk orders. The M-W price is an average of prices paid for manufacturing grade milk by plants in Minnesota and Wisconsin that manufactures butter, nonfat dry milk and cheese. In my opinion, the M-W price is responsible for confusing consumers, giving manufacturing handlers nightmares and sends countless numbers of dairy farmers into extinction.

It's time for a change! In many areas, dairy farmers are clamoring for a change. For over 25 years we have been urging a milk formula that would relate to the actual cost of producing milk in the United States. The U.S.D.A. publishes



NOW IS THE TIME
By John Schwartz
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Improve Herbicide Effectiveness

The effectiveness of a weed control program may be improved by following five easy steps:

1. Match the control program, including the herbicide, to the weed problems in the field.
2. Plant and apply preemergence herbicides as soon after the last tillage operation as possible. Many herbicides are only effective on germinating seeds and will not control weeds after they have germinated.
3. Use a rotary hoe or spike-tooth harrow to incorporate herbicides if rain is not received within 5 to 7 days.
4. Take advantage of cultivation to control escape weeds whenever possible.
5. Develop realistic goals for the weed control program. Crops will tolerate some weeds with little or no impact on yields. However, watch for escape weeds which could become problems in the future.

To Follow Food Safety Debate

This past week marked a new round of food safety issues. A General Accounting Office report on eggborne Salmonella was very critical of how governmental agencies was dealing with this problem. The report stated 12 federal agencies and departments carry

out responsibilities under 35 different laws related to food safety. The report called for better coordination and cooperation between agencies.

A model program is being developed for the egg industry to keep eggs contaminated with Salmonella off the market. The Food and Drug Administration will be taking a more active role in food safety issues. As farmers, you will be under constant pressure to produce food with no harmful bacterial contamination.

Also, this week the government gave the approval to market food produced from new developments in biotechnology. People are becoming more aware of certain aspects of their food. Agriculture will need to be able to respond quickly with facts and information on how food is produced and what is being done to insure product wholesomeness.

The media and consumer groups are doing independent studies on food safety. This makes it very important we are doing the best job possible.

Our consumers are requiring all food be produced by best management practices. This includes observing drug withdrawal times,

using pesticides at proper rates, maintaining a clean environment, and keeping food refrigerated.

Lactobacillus Less Effective In Treating Mastitis

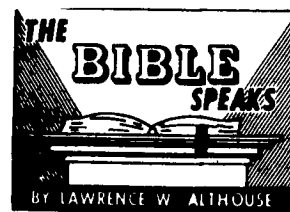
Researchers at Ohio State University compared the effectiveness of a lactobacillus preparation with that of an antibiotic on the cure rate of clinical mastitis.

The lactobacillus preparation cured 35.3 percent of the infected quarters compared to 57.7 percent for the antibiotic treatment. The biggest difference was in the cure rate of gram negative or coliform type bacteria.

The cure rate for lactobacillus was zero compared to 61.5 percent for the antibiotic. The antibiotic used in this trial was cephapirin.

Somatic cell count levels in the milk was used to determine the degree of infection in the udder. Fourteen days after treatment, the cell counts remained unchanged for the lactobacillus treated quarters, where cell counts were reduced in quarters treated with cephapirin.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "Everything starts as somebody's daydream" — Larry Niven.



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR
May 31, 1992

Background Scripture: 2 Peter 3:3-14*
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 55:1-13.

If you read carefully the two letters attributed to Peter, you may note that there is a decided shift between the two when it comes to the apocalyptic end of the world. In I Peter 4:7, he says: "The end of all things is at hand..." and much of the letter is predicated on the writer's conviction that Christ's return is immanent.

When we get to 2 Peter, however, we see that the writer now regards the second coming as delayed, at least from a human perspective. In fact, in 2 Peter the writer is acknowledging that the kingdom has been delayed and he is aware of the gospel's critics: "...you must understand this, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing... and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming?'" (3:3,4). He goes on to challenge them to take the long-term viewpoint: "...do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day..." (3:8).

Paul, Too

The Apostle Paul had pretty much the same experience. In his early letters, he regarded Christ's return as immanent, but, by the time he wrote his last letters, it is evident that he was no longer looking for it in the present moment. The early disciples of Jesus learned that, as Christ had suggested to them when he walked with them, if there is a timetable for the great fulfillment of God's promise, it is known only to him. The most Important thing for Christian discipleship is not knowing the divine timetable, but living in such a way that, whenever it comes, we will have lived and died in harmony with God's plan

and purpose.

Lots of people pick scripture texts here and there to substantiate their interpretation of the time and circumstances of Christ's return in glory. But, if you examine everything the Bible says about the fulfillment of God's plan, you cannot escape the conclusion that, apart from the conviction that the promise will be fulfilled, the time, place and circumstances cannot be deduced from the scriptures. To be exact, you must focus on some scriptures and ignore others. Obviously, God did not intend to give us the blueprints.

A "New Us"

The writer of 2 Peter says, "But according to his promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (3:13). Does that mean that the present earth and universe will be replaced with something else? Or is this a spiritual rather than factual representation of the fulfillment of his promises? Will there be a great Armageddon, as Revelation suggests or is that too just figurative rather than literal language? My own answer is: I don't know. I don't know what form the "new heavens" and the "new earth" will take.

But what I do know is the very same thing that 2 Peter is trying to get across: if there is to some day be "new heavens" and a "new earth," what is required here and now is a "new us." We do not know and cannot know the details of God's plan, but what we do know is that, while we wait, we are to live in a "new" way. "Therefore, beloved, since you wait for these, be zealous to be found by Him without spot or blemish, and at peace" (3:14).

That's really all we have to know about God's plan. It is more than enough!

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