



OPINION

A Winning Attitude

In a letter to the editor of our town newspaper, Charles Longenecker from New Holland noted that Alabama State Coach "Bear" Bryant had written the following:

"If anything goes bad, I did it."

"If anything goes semi-good, we did it."

"If anything goes real good, then you did it."

That's all it takes to get people to win football games for you. Longenecker's point was aimed at the President and Congress as they blame each other for the woes of the country. We asked permission to use Longenecker's point in another situation.

Many dairy persons from various parts of the state and nation blame each other for the woes of the industry. If Bryant could get his university teams to win games with this philosophy, why couldn't the same attitude be used to bring a more unified effort among farmers?

Farm Forum

Editor:

I read, with interest, your editorial on August 8, 1992. I applaud your support for the Veterinary College at the University of Pennsylvania. The contribution of this vet school to the State has been well documented. I would point out that the graduates of the vet school have made a large impact on a national basis. Their approach to large animal medicine has been in the forefront of the changes that are occurring in veterinary colleges across the country. They are providing leadership in the new concepts of production medicine. The new veterinarian is being trained in a broader array of factors that affect the animal on the farm. Animal health is still the major emphasis. They also provide training in nutrition, record analysis and total analysis and total farm analysis and management. This approach is giving the animal industry in Pennsylvania the competitive edge over the rest of the country.

I am concerned that you suggest that the College not pursue nutrition research and consulting. First the nutrition research is being car-

ried out on farms in the area. I think that if you ask the producers where this research is being conducted you will find nothing but a positive response about the interaction. Second, this research is being conducted by some of the top scientists in the country. Third, the young veterinary students are being exposed to the cutting edge in nutrition concepts and are being trained in dairy management. It is suggested that these activities rather than competing with industry will help keep the producer competitive and will help keep the producer in business. I would suggest that the producer will benefit from research being conducted in two locations, both at Penn State and at U Penn. I would also point out that this research is mostly funded in BOTH locations by industry. The animal industry in Pennsylvania can consider themselves lucky that they have such a forward looking group at New Bolton Center. The loss of this College would be a travesty to your industry.

Charles J. Sniffen, Ph.D.
President, Miner Institute

Farm Calendar

Saturday, September 5

Pennsylvania Rabbit Conference, Clinton County Fairgrounds, Mill Hall.
Juniata County Fair, Port Royal, thru Sept. 12.
District Dairy Show, Mon Valley, Washington County Fairgrounds.
District Dairy Show, Crawford County Fairgrounds.
District Dairy Show, Dayton Fairgrounds, Clarksburg.
Greene County Ram and Ewe Sale.
First Annual Antique Tractor and Equipment Show. Tractor pulls, pedal pulls, toy display and flea market, Rte. 54, Washingtonville, LeLong Fairground, Montour County, Washingtonville, and Sun., Sept. 6.
Northwest 4-H Dairy Show, Meadville.

Wednesday, September 9

Wheat and Barley Growers annual planning meeting, York County Extension Meeting Room #2, Pleasant Acres, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 10

Ag Issues Forum, Willow Valley, 7:30 a.m.-9 a.m.
West Maryland Ag Field Day, Western Maryland Research and Education Center.

Lancaster County Honey Producers Meeting, Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.

Tillage Field Day, Richard Trinca farm, Rebersburg, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Adams County Farmers Association Tour, Everett Weiser Farm, Gettysburg, 9 a.m.

Friday, September 11

Pesticide Test, Schuylkill Co. Cooperative Extension, 9 a.m.-noon.
Pa. Holstein Fall Championship



NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Plan Corn Harvest

Silo filling time will be delayed on many farms this year because of the cooler summer we have had.

We simply did not receive the required heat units and growing degree days necessary to mature corn at the normal rate. So before

jumping into silo filling, be sure to check the moisture content of several stalks in the field and check the maturity of the ears in both the fields to be ensiled and in the fields to be picked or shelled.

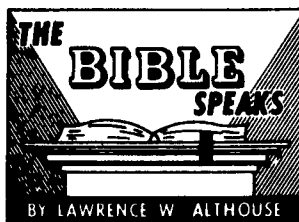
Next you need to ask yourself, will the grain corn have enough time to mature before frost? If not, you might have to salvage some of the later maturing fields as silage.

If that is the case, you may want to save some of your silage fields for picking or shelling. Now is the time to assess the maturity level of your corn fields and plan your harvest strategy.

To Maintain Body Condition In Cows

One of the most stressful times in a cow's life is the time of calving and the weeks that follow. To minimize stress it is important that cows have adequate body reserves at calving time.

To accomplish this, aim for a body condition score of 3.5 to 3.75 in late lactation when the cow is dried off. Maintain this score until calving time and avoid losses of flesh or weight.



WHEN GOD SAYS
"GO"
September 6, 1992

Background Scripture:

Genesis 11:27 through 12:9.

Devotional Reading:

Genesis 13:14-18.

Although Abram's story is set in a time some thousands of years ago, it has a lot of relevance for the world we live in today, for ours is a time of rapid and radical change. People are on the move today and it would seem that the one thing of which we can be certain is uncertainty.

These are times that severely challenge our faith. For faith is easier to come by when things are relatively stable. But in a world marked by instability, it is harder to trust.

The word "faith" can denote

what we believe. When we speak of the Lutheran faith or the Methodist faith, we are speaking about the doctrinal ideas held by Lutherans and Methodists. Let us make no mistake about Abram's faith. The writer of Genesis is not talking about ideas, creeds or doctrines. Actually, we know practically nothing of the content of Abram's beliefs. What the writer of Genesis is depicting is Abram's trust in God. When God said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you" (12:1), Abraham trusted God and obeyed him. That was Abram's faith.

BUNGEE-JUMPING

Recently I saw some people doing bungee-jumping. I'm sure you know what it is: people are

Now, I want you to know that I believe what that article said—rightly done, bungee-jumping is probably pretty safe—but don't expect me to try it! In my mind, I believe it could be safe, but that belief does not extend down into my legs. Jumping off a high perch requires more than believing an idea. I must trust that idea to the point that I can commit myself to

The development of the unborn calf in the last two months of pregnancy requires that the cow gain about one to two pounds per day during the dry period. If she draws upon her body reserves to develop the fetus, the cow will enter into calving with depleted reserves.

Thus, it is important for the cow to be fed a little extra grain two to three weeks before calving. It is important to feed dry cows properly so they will get off to a good start in their lactation.

This requires two dry cow groups. The second group is made up of the cows two to three weeks from calving. During this time, while consuming their dry cow ration, they should also be introduced to small quantities of the lactating ration to help smooth the transition to the lactating ration after calving.

It may also be beneficial to offer the freshening cow a stress pack, especially if she goes off feed at calving time. This will help ensure an adequate intake of essential vitamins, minerals and other nutrients at this very crucial time and help to get her back on feed rapidly.

My beliefs have to be stronger than my fears. And I confess I am not going to entrust my life to a long, rubber cord, no matter how strong it is and no matter how many statistics you show me.

That's the challenge that came to Abram. God said "Go," and the question was not whether he believed in God, but whether he trusted him enough to journey into the unknown. Perhaps his father, Terah, was the original recipient of the call to go to the promised land. Terah and his family did leave Ur of the Chaldeans for the land of Canaan. But when they had covered a little more than half the way, they stopped and settled in Haran.

INTERRUPTED JOURNEY

I can relate to that, for sometimes my life has been like the interrupted journey from Ur to Canaan. Sometimes God has called me and I have trusted him enough to start off on my venture. But later, I realize that somewhere along the way I have settled down considerably short of the goal. Often, when I have stopped and settled down along the way, I have not realized that I was stopping and settling for something less than that for which I began the venture.

I'm sure that, along the way, there were times when Abram was tempted to do just that. What makes him a person of faith, then, is that he met two great challenges: to trust God enough to both begin and continue the journey to the end. It is not enough to go when God sends us; we have to keep going until we get to the end of the line.

One of the jumpers said, "Once you leap, there's nothing but that long thin line to depend on!" Religious faith, then, is a little like spiritual bungee-jumping. Essentially, when god says "Go!" it is the leap of faith, not calculation, that we must make.

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