



OPINION

A Million People Wait

Next Saturday night the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Program will again stage the annual state dairy princess pageant at the start of the All-American dairy week. Robin Wilbur will finish a year of superb work in the promotion of the state dairy industry and its products, and a new state princess representative will be crowned.

The dairy princess program dates back to 1956 when the Miss Milk Maid Contest was initiated by the Pennsylvania Association of Milk Dealers. Later the Pennsylvania Holstein Association and the Atlantic Dairy Association worked the program. And in 1983 the present Pennsylvania Dairy Princess and Promotion Services, Inc., was formed to provide a more uniform program. Jan Harding is affectionately known as the "mother" of all that the dairy princesses do for the industry. Of course, Jan will be the first to give credit to her regional coordinators and all the parents and other volunteers who help.

The program reaches thousands of consumers. For example, the 39 princesses and 25 alternates made 1744 school presentations; 561 store and mall presentations and 510 non-farm speeches. In just these three categories, one quarter million consumers were reached.

In addition, they participated in 716 parades and other special events; appeared on 741 radio and TV programs; distributed 176,213 recipe folders and 134,041 advertising specialities and traveled 112,585 miles. Oh, yes, they appeared at 371 farm meetings too.

While exact figures on how many people may have listened to the TV and radio programs or lined the parade routes can only be estimated, we are sure the combined efforts of the dairy princesses across the state reached more than a million people with the good news of the nutritional value of milk and dairy products.

Accolades are in order and we extend them. But we also know this year's dairy princesses will not rest on the current accomplishments. On September 19, 33 new county princesses will compete for the state title. And one will be chosen to represent the state for the coming year. It will be a glamorous time for the winner.

But the county princesses are already winners. And the importance of a local princess representing local dairy farm families to local consumer families is not a small thing. In fact, because so many of the consumer contacts are made at the local level, the presentations made by the county princess represents the heart of the princess promotion program.

To the retiring princesses, we say to a job well done, "Thank You!" And to the new class, we say, "Best Wishes! A million people wait to hear your milk message."

Farm Calendar

Saturday, September 12

Beef Grazing Tour, Waffle Hill Farm, Churchville, Md.
Southwestern Pa. Beef Field Day, R.D. Whetzel Farm, Greene County, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Forest Stewardship Landowners Workshop, Dauphin Co. Ag Center, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Erosion and Sedimentation Control Workshop, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Earth Science Center, Montgomery, 8 a.m.
State York/Hampshire/Duroc Show and Sale, Lebanon Fairgrounds, show noon, sale 6 p.m.
Horse Plowing Contest, Schaefferstown, 10 a.m.

Sunday, September 13

PennAg's 114th Convention, Mountain Laurel Resort and Conference Center, White Haven, thru Sept. 15.
Horse Parade/Horse Pull, Schaefferstown, 12:30 p.m.
Schuylkill County AgriBusiness and Farm Tours, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
Mercer County Holstein Club Picnic, Mark and LeRoy Canon Dairy Farm, West Middlesex.

Monday, September 14

Denver Community Fair, Denver, thru Sept. 18.
Maximizing Your Pastures Potential on a Rotational Grazing System, Pinney's Dairy Farm, Horse Run Road, Singlehouse, 7:30 p.m.
Tulpehocken Young Adult Farmer Silage Management Seminar, Sam Forry family hosting, Rehersburg.
Poultry Management and Health Seminar, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, Noon.

Tuesday, September 15

Pesticide Evaluation Field Day, Fruit Research Laboratory, Biglerville, 8:30 a.m.
ADC District 6 New Holland, Leola and Gap Meetings, Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland 7 p.m.
ADC District 19 Central Susquehanna Meeting, Lairdsville Fire Hall, Lairdsville, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 16

Delmarva Broiler Housing and Flock Supervisors Conference,



NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Prepare For Big Harvest

With the good growing weather we had this spring and summer, crops are looking great.

The tall corn could cause some harvesting problems. Now would be a good time to check belts and chains for wear. Replace worn parts and have spares on hand for breakdowns. Make sure all grease fittings are working and are lubricated frequently.

Adjust ground speed to crop density. By slowing up a little could prevent a major break and loss time due to clogs.

When equipment must be unclogged, make sure the power is turned off before working on the harvesting equipment. This will prevent loss of fingers, arms, feet, legs or life.

When traveling on highways, make sure your "Slow Moving Vehicle Sign" is visible.

By taking a little extra time, we can keep this harvest season accident-free.

To Monitor Silage Moisture Levels

Moisture content at harvest time is one of the most important factors

Delmarva Convention Center, Delmar, Md.

Solanco Fair, Quarryville, thru Sept. 18.

Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, Mass., thru Sept. 27.

Master Gardener Training Program, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, Md., 9 a.m.

Garden Center Nite-Lite Meeting, Pine Run Garden Center, 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Forest Landowner Symposium, Holiday Inn, Warren.

Thursday, September 17

Oley Valley Community Fair, Oley, thru Sept. 19.

Lycoming County Woodland Owners Association annual meeting, Montoursville, 6 p.m.

Garden Center Nite-Lite Meeting, Waterloo Gardens, 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Friday, September 18

Pennsylvania Grange Young Marrieds Weekend, Econo Lodge, Altoona.

Saturday, September 19

New Jersey Organic Country Fair, Pennington, N.J., 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Pageant, Sheraton Harrisburg East, thru Sept. 24.

Sheep Field Day, Perry Farm, Whitehouse Station, N.J.

Livestock Production Tour, RaJa Hill Farm, Ralph Alleman Farm, 3470 Valley Road, Marysville.

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affecting silage quality. When corn silage is too dry, it does not pack well and the risk of spoilage increases. When it is too wet, it leaches nutrients, becomes more sour, and is less palatable.

Aim for 63 to 68 percent moisture when filling upright silos, 65 to 70 percent for horizontal silos, and 55 to 60 percent for oxygen-limiting structures. Monitor the moisture content of whole stalks in the days and weeks preceding filling.

Under normal conditions, corn, as it matures, will lose about 0.5 percent moisture per day. Another guideline is to chop corn when the milk line is one third of the way down from the top of the kernel. For oxygen-limiting structures it should be about halfway down the kernel.

To Cure Silage Before Feeding

According to Glenn Shirk, exten-

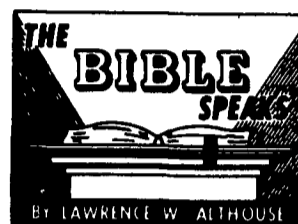
sion dairy agent, feeding uncured silage to cows may throw them off feed and reduce milk production.

Shirk advises that one way to help prevent this problem is to open the fields up about two weeks before normal filling time. Instead of blowing this early cut silage into the silo, fill a bag or make a stack and let it cure. By the time it is cured, you may feed the herd from this cured supply while the silo is being filled, refilled, and going through fermentation.

Your rewards for this effort may come in the form of larger milk checks and smaller veterinarian bills.

For higher quality early cut silage, plant the ends and opening rows of the field to a shorter season hybrid so it will be more mature when the fields are opened.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "A leading authority is anyone who has guessed right more than once." — Frank Clark



PUT OUT YOUR HAND!
September 13, 1992

Background Scripture:

Exodus 3:1 through 4:17.

Devotional Reading:

Exodus 4:10-16.

When I was in my first pastorate in the suburbs of Harrisburg, PA, one day on the way to call in the hospital, I saw a woman hit by a car. As I pulled over to the curb, I was sure that she had not survived, for she had been thrown into the air and came down with a terrible thud. I had always been squeamish about physical injuries. The sight revolted me. So, I assumed that on this busy street there would be someone less squeamish and more knowledgeable to do whatever needed to be done before an ambulance arrived.

But, although several other people looked on with me, none made a move to go to the fallen woman's side. At last, I realized that if anything was going to be done, it would have to be me. So, for the first time in my life, I put aside my abdominal butterflies and knelt beside the bloodied woman to do whatever I could do. Miraculously, she was still alive, although I was sure she could not long survive. Nevertheless, later that same day in the hospital I saw her again and was told that she would recover and live.

AN 80-YEAR OLD FAILURE

I must confess that putting out my hand that day to touch her was one of the hardest things I had ever done. But, it seemed, I had no choice because no one else was going to do it and I knew that someone had to at least try. I had no idea how I could be of help to her, but that all became pretty academic when I put out my hand and did what I thought, for me, was impossible. I have since come to realize that most of the worthwhile things in the world have been accomplished by people who were just as scared as I was, and just as certain they were not equal to the task.

Today, we celebrated Moses as a great man of faith, but we overlook the fact that he was certain that he was not the man for the job. Up until the time of this great wayside experience, Moses had not demonstrated any leadership

or spiritual sensitivity. And, most important of all—something we usually overlook—when this challenge came to him, he was already 80 years old, an age long past the point at which people today think they can be of any service.

I WILL TURN ASIDE

So, what made the difference between this 80-year old failure and the man of faith we revere today? For one thing, Moses made the change possible when, seeing the burning bush, he said to himself, "I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not consumed"(3:3). Probably that one decision is what most differentiates us from Moses. Too many of us would have said—and do say today—"Hmm, isn't that strange!" and kept going. God has a message for each of us, but we will never hear the message unless we are willing to "turn aside and see," to give God a chance to speak from some of the "holy ground" in our own lives.

Perhaps another reason that God was able to reach Moses was that when he challenged, he was honest about his doubts and reservations. When God proposed to send Moses to Pharaoh as his representative, Moses did not beat around the burning bush: "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?"(3:11). And:"But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice..."(4:1). And later: "oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent...I am slow of speech and tongue"(4:10). And finally: "Oh, my Lord, send, I pray, some other person" (4:13).

And, because Moses was upfront with his reactions, God was able to deal with them. To every objection Moses raised, the answer is found in God's reassurance: "But I will be with you"(3:12). None of us, by ourselves, is equal to the tasks of God lays upon us. We may not have all it takes to do what has to be done; but, if we give God what we have, he will make up the difference. If we trust him, we can, if we will, respond when he says to us: "Put out your hand..."

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