

Lancaster Farming

Update: Dr. Spock And The PCRM

ARLINGTON, Va. — After initially buying its anti-milk pitch, the mass media last week began reporting on the real agenda of Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine — vegetarianism and radical animal rights.

Lancaster Farming reported the connection between PCRM and animal rights groups the same

week the anti-milk story gained national attention. (See "Dr. Spock Says He Has Been Misquoted In Milk Controversy," Oct. 3 issue, page 1.) As a result of this article, several letters to the editor are published with this article, including a letter from Dr. Stan Curtis, head of the Dairy and Animal Science Department at Penn State. In addition,

a milk promotion group sent a copy of this Oct. 3 article as information to several city news reporters.

According to the latest newsletter from the National Milk Producers Federation, Arlington, Va., Harry Smith of the CBS Morning News interviewed Dr. Benjamin Spock in an effort to get to the bot-

tom of his remarks about milk. "Are you and others saying kids should not drink dairy milk?" Smith asked. Spock said, "No, that's much too broad. What we were called attention to (at the PCRM press conference) is the value of breast feeding." Smith pressed on, saying the impression that was left from the PCRM press conference was that older children shouldn't drink milk. Spock

admitted that was the impression that had been left with the consumers, while stating that "hundreds of millions of American children in the past century have been drinking cow's milk without trouble." Spock went on to say that "we're lucky to have cow's milk" for babies that couldn't be breast fed.

Carole Sugarman of the Washington Post also questioned Spock and the PCRM's dietary advice. After interviewing Spock on the phone, Sugarman concluded that, "I began to think that in some ways he (Spock) had been used by the PCRM to advance its vegetarian diet. . . ." Spock also told Sugarman that he was very disappointed that the world had gotten the impression that children should never drink milk.

Unfortunately, for anyone connected to the dairy industry, that was just what happened, and some in the media faulted themselves for buying into the PCRM's pitch without investigating the group more closely. "Not enough reporters looked behind the group's fancy letterhead," the Wisconsin State Journal said in an opinion piece.

Far too few of the national media reported the link between the Physicians Committee and its sister group (People for The Ethical Treatment of Animals) that

Farm Forum

Editor:

Thank you for your careful reporting of the "Dr. Spock Milk Story" (page A1, 3 October 1992 issue). Unfortunately, as you reported, the words of venerable pediatrician Benjamin Spock have been twisted and abused by animal activists posing as physicians interested in responsible health care. Really, these folks are proselytizers of ethical vegetarianism. But in one fell swoop the original media reporters of their news conference elevated mythical statements to scientific facts.

This nation's radical animal activists — including members of that Physicians Committee for Re-

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Members of Maryland 4-H dairy cattle judging team and their coach received a financial send-off for their championship tour from Dennis Remsburg, right. In the photo, left to right are, Dr. J. Lee Majeskie, University of Maryland, coach; Marie Speak, 17, Taneytown, Carroll County; Christopher (Chip) Savage, 17, Burkittsville, Frederick County; Kristi Geary, 17, Goshen, Montgomery County and Mark Iager, 16, Fulton, Howard County.

Maryland Wins National 4-H Dairy Judging Again

MADISON, WI — For longtime observers, it's perhaps not big news when Maryland wins another championship in national 4-H dairy cattle judging competition. And the Maryland team did it again this year during the World Dairy Expo at Madison, Wis. The achievement marked the 26th national championship for Maryland teams in 72 years of 4-H competition.

In addition to winning the team championship, Maryland also had the high individual in a field of 148 contestants from 37 states. This year's winner was Mark Iager, 16, of Fulton (Howard County).

Mark follows in the footsteps of his father, Charles E. Iager, Jr., who won the

same honor in 1958. The Iagers operate Maple Lawn Farms, home to a nationally known Holstein herd along Highway 216 at the edge of Fulton.

Another Howard County resident, Amy Brown of Roxbury, was high individual in the national 4-H dairy cattle judging contest at the World Dairy Expo in 1990.

Previous national champions from Maryland have included William L. Swift III of Sheperd (Baltimore County) in 1985, Michael J. Allen of Jefferson in 1981 and Ronnie Kling of Taneytown in 1974, both from Frederick County.

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Kerra Allen And The Sheep That Raised \$2,197 For God

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff

MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — Bids flew fast and furious when Kerra Allen brought her Suffolk sheep into the show ring at the Manheim Community Farm Show Livestock Sale last week. Bidding stopped at the record-breaking price of \$11 per pound for a total of \$1,122 paid by Tom Drumm and some other business people representing TW's Leather Sales, Inc. of Lutz.

In a surprise move, Drumm donated the sheep back to 11-year-old Kerra. The story doesn't end there, for a few days later, Darwin Boyd, representing Hamilton Bank, donated an additional \$1,075 to Kerra and her cause.

According to Kerra, the story behind this unusual price for her sheep actually began several months ago.

"I was sitting in church listening to our minister who always has these neat sermons," Kerra said. "I felt amazed at how much God had given me so I thought I'd like to give something to God."

Right away, Kerra thought of her sheep Patches. Every year since Kerra was four years old, she had raised sheep to sell at the Manheim Community Farm Show. With the money she earned, she paid the feed bills and pocketed the remainder. This year, the idea to give the profits to God impressed her.

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Impressed by Kerra Allen's compassion to donate the selling price of her lamb, Patches, to Clare House, Tom Drumm of TW's Leather Sales, Inc., right, purchased it for \$1,122 and returned Patches to Kerra during the Manheim Farm Show Livestock Sale. Because the second-highest bidder Darwin Boyd of Hamilton Bank, left, could not forget Kerra's gesture of kindness, the bank donated \$1,075 a few days later.