



OPINION

Farmers Should Be Complimented

You usually serve environment and the public best when you cultivate the land in the most cost effective manner. Grant Troop, president of the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers, said it best. "...when you look at what pays and what doesn't, the limits of economy are in line with what's best for the environment," Troop said.

Chemicals are needed for weed control. Fertilizers are needed as plant food. When chemicals are used according to label restrictions, they serve food production well and do no harm to the environment. Harmful chemicals have been taken from the market long ago.

And when fertilizers are applied according to present plant needs in proper applications according to soil tests, no excess nutrients build up in the soil. And the environment sustains mankind in the process. This applies to farming.

But the same principle of management applies to other land uses as well. It makes no sense to allow a renewable resource to rot and go to waste. Plants and trees can be used or harvested and new replacement crops planted. Young healthy plants and trees are better for the environment than dead and rotting trees in a forest. Barren fields left to wild growths of obnoxious weeds and deteriorating soils cost taxpayers money.

Farming contributes to the public good by providing a bountiful food supply. And farming contributes to the environment by holding off development, keeping the soil porous so rainwater can be asorbed and by growing millions of plants that help keep the air clean. Farmers should be complimented, not berated, for their efforts and contributions to society and the environment.

Farm Forum

Editor:

Some decades ago there were 20,000,000 farmers in America. That number dwindled until, as of July, there were 900,000, and each day since it declined by 2,000. It could be that there are just about 600- to 700-thousand farmers now.

Divide 600,000 into 260,000,000 Americans and that comes out to over 400 persons per farmer, for whom those farmers have to provide food and supplies. Add to those 400 Americans per farmer about another 400 foreigners. No farmer can provide all the needs for 800 people. That's impossible.

It looks like the big question is coming over the horizon — Who shall eat and who shall not?

It's not that the population expanded that is the problem; it is that the number of farmers have declined.

The environmentalists, DER, EPA, OSHA, labor laws, ordinances, wildlife-lovers and the kind are absolutely responsible for the decline and scarcity of the farmers. There should be no less than

5 million farmers to provide the needs for the people.

Our politicians failed to understand this. It's too late to understand or do much about it, because the damage is here.

They'll have to forget the environmental laws, and stop harassing the farmers.

Farmers don't have to produce food at all and do it in fear. But everybody has to eat.

Food is more important than the environment or the Bay. People drink out of the river down to the Maryland line. Baltimore is the biggest polluter of the Bay. What's more is the fish and aquatic life in the Bay discharge more excrement into the Bay than all the livestock in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York and Delaware do.

It's time to get off of the backs of the farmers and forget all environmental laws including the nutrient bill.

Forty million people in America are starving and, if the environmentalists have their way, most of America will starve.

Paul Holowka
York

Farm Calendar

Saturday, February 13
Cumberland County Holstein Club annual meeting, Penn Twp. Fire Hall, Hunsdale, 10:45 a.m.

Small and Part-Time Farmer Workshop, Clarion Co. Voc-Tech.

Sunday, February 14
Happy Valentine's Day!

Monday, February 15
Pa. Nursery Conference, Hershey

Convention Center, thru Feb. 17.

Crop Production Satellite Seminar, Grain Crops.

Bradford Co. Dairy Day, Troy Middle School, Troy, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Tunnel Ventilation of Dairy Barns, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 1 p.m.

New Holland Vegetable Day, Summit Valley School, New Holland, 9:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m.



**NOW IS
THE TIME**

By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Acclimate Young Cattle

According to Chester Hughes, extension livestock agent, the first few days calves and young cattle are in the feed yard will have the biggest influence on your profits.

Newly arrived cattle typically face a great deal of stress when they arrive to the feed yard. They may be arriving after hours on a truck only to find themselves confronted by unfamiliar surroundings.

The stress may be such that the cattle do not even recognize the feed bunk or the feed in it. Several basic steps may help smooth the transition and encourage the new arrivals to settle and begin normal eating.

Start the cattle on a mixture of high quality long stem grass hay and concentrate. The ration should be 40 to 60 percent concentrate (14 percent protein, 0.67 percent calcium, 0.45 percent phosphorus, 0.80 percent potassium, and about 2,000 units of vitamin A per pound dry matter). Lean toward the lower concentrate mix if steers or heifers are headed toward a high roughage ration; pick the higher concentrate level if their destination is a finishing diet.

Over the first three to four days, begin reducing the hay component of the mixture until you are putting no hay in the bunk. Start dusting

Dear Editor:

I would like to add to the article covering the dairy industry's meeting with Sen. Wofford's office.

Every dairy farmer in the country would feel the shock waves if the post-communist countries and third-world nations are givend uty-free access to our market. They are not under the gun to produce quality milk.

We pay the U.S. government to store "surplus" dairy products in the spirit of the deficit-reduction bill.

We pay the USDA in order to advertise our milk and dairy products.

The U.S. dairy farmers will feel the blast of the media when imported cheese is found to have residues or poor quality. It will affect all of us and it would undermine all the effort we put forth in advertising our own product.

Highly subsidized Western European nations such as England and Germany could send milk into
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ABC Dist. 5, Southern Lancaster, Hoffman Bldg., Solanco Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.

ABC Dist. 6, Maryland Emory Church, Street, Md., noon.

ABC Dist. 10, Fayette, Firmani's Rest., Uniontown, 10:30 a.m.

ABC Dist. 12, Redwood Restaur-

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the ration with silage in place of hay. Cattle should be ready to move to a regular feeding program within 14 to 21 days.

To Reduce Stress On

Newly Arrived Cattle

To minimize stress on newly arrived calves and young cattle, Hughes suggests a probiotic and vitamin B be included in the feed if the cattle have been off feed for more than a few days. Also, antibiotics may be appropriate if the cattle have been stressed severely or otherwise may be likely candidates for shipping fever.

A coccidiostat should be given to calves or cattle that have been through public marketing channels. Design the vaccination and processing program to fit what you know about the history of the calves and cattle being received.

If possible, postpone any castration, dehorning or other stress-creating management steps until the new arrivals have adjusted to their surroundings and settled on to feed.

To Buy High Quality Pullets

The quality of the pullet going

into the laying house is one of the biggest factors determining egg production.

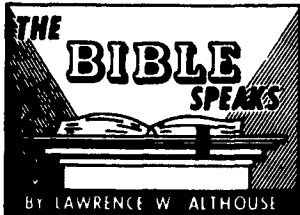
Frank Baber, DeKalb, at the recent poultry management seminar, showed actual production graphs where the number of eggs produced to 30 weeks of age varied by 16 eggs per hen housed. This translates into a income difference of at least 64 cents per bird.

Trying to buy or produce the cheapest pullet is not the most profitable. That 64 cents bird difference will easily pay for proper feeding, health, and growing programs. Also, we must recognize the geneticist has changed the genetics of today's laying hen.

To take advantage of these changes, we must make adjustments to both our pullet growing programs and laying house management. If you have not made adjustments in your management programs during the last five years, you should re-evaluate them.

Discuss these programs with your chick and feed sales people. At 64 cents per bird, now is the time to take action.

Feather Prof's Footnote:
"Quality only happens when you care enough to do your best."



**HERIT BADGE
RELIGION
February 14, 1993**

Background Scripture:

Romans 10.

Devotional Reading:

1 Corinthians 9:19-27.

Lots of things in life work on the merit basis--or are supposed to: school, scouting, profession, employment, athletics, awards, medals and honors.

Many expect merit to be the basis of religion too. Whatever religious awards there are--salvation, eternal life, and so forth--it is logical that we would assume that those benefits are to be appropriated on the basis of our personal merit: the more righteous we are, the greater our reward. If we attain this, it is our accomplishment.

Paul says: "I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law..." (10:2-4).

UNENLIGHTENED

The merit approach tended to make people proud and arrogant, not humble. Instead of focusing on the goodness of God, people were intent on their own legal merit--righteousness as a personal achievement rather than a divine gift. That is still true, isn't it? Arrogant pride is often the result.

The merit approach also leads some people to go in the opposite direction. Instead of becoming complacent with their moral performance, they despair of salvation because they know they can never be righteous enough. These people go through life suspecting that they are too sinful to be saved, that their sin is greater than God's grace.

Legalism tends to tunnel vision. Focused on living up to certain rules, we tend to overlook other

moral imperatives that may be even more important. If we achieve respectable lifestyles--don't steal, get drunk, commit adultery, kill or blaspheme, but go to church and pay our pledge--we may likely assume that is all that God requires of us. We forget that 'respectability' has to do with how other people regard us, while 'righteousness' is concerned with how we relate to God.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR GOD

The 'law' can become a substitute for God. In the 10 commandments it is specified that Israel shall have no other gods before the Lord and forswear idolatry. But their passion for the law sometimes superseded their passion for God and their pharasaic approach to the law often became an idol that they venerated in place of God.

Finally, Paul saw they were wrong in assuming that righteousness produced salvation. In actuality, says Paul, salvation produces righteousness. No matter how well he kept the law, Paul realized he could never be righteous enough to merit God's salvation. Only the undeserved love of God--grace--could save him. But, because he was saved by God's love, he then was motivated to live righteously and that often took him considerably beyond the law.

If merit badge religion is right, I don't have a chance, for, like Paul, I can never be good enough to merit God's love. But if Paul is right, God's love is dependent, not upon me, but upon his own gracious nature and will. And, if he loves me and saves me, just as I am, then I will do all I can to show my gratitude and thanksgiving in living as righteously as I can.

You, too?

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