



## OPINION

### The Goal Of Every Farmer

As food safety continues to be a public issue, farmers need to do everything possible to prevent medicine contamination of the milk and meat. Jeremy Rifkin, who heads such anti-animal groups as the Foundation of Economic Trends and the Greenhouse Crisis Foundation, is quoted as saying agriculture is second only to nuclear weapons in the threat that they pose to mankind.

From this statement, you would think we would all be dead by now. Instead, our life expectancy increases by several months each year. Some of this chance for growing older must come from eating good food supplied by the American farmer. But that's another story.

The fact is that the public deserves a safe food supply, and antibiotic residues are contaminants and should not be in the milk or meat that goes on the public dinner table. With this in mind, a quote from Keith E. Sterner, DVM, is in order. Sterner was one of the featured speakers at the NDPC-FDA Regional Joint Milk Conference held recently in Syracuse.

"...the best single treatment for any disease is the one that never occurred in the first place," said Sterner. "This is especially true for mastitis. Given the demands placed on today's dairy farmer, very heavy emphasis must be placed on facilities and management practices which prevent disease and diminish performance associated with it.

"My philosophy is a simple one. Place a cow in a clean, dry environment, feed her properly and keep the 'bugs' on the outside from becoming 'bugs' on the inside. By paying careful attention to the nutrition of the dairy cow, we not only affect her ability to live up to her genetic milk production potential, but also her intrinsic ability to resist infection. By placing emphasis on facilities that keep her comfortable, clean, and dry, we reduce the challenge from microbial pathogens. And by prepping and milking with properly designed, installed and maintained milking equipment and hygienic procedures, we help to ensure that the need for treatment is a minimal one, because the incidence of disease is reduced."

Of course, sickness in animals will sometimes occur. When this happens, use medicines and practices that are right for the situation. But by taking care of the day-to-day "little preventative things," the need for treatments will be reduced. This should be the goal of every farmer.

## Farm Calendar

Saturday, April 3

Schuylkill Co. Fair Spring Consignment Auction.

1993 Orchid Show, Ag Arena, Penn State, thru April 4.

Forest Stewardship Landowners Workshop, rescheduled from March 13, Grant Science Center, Mansfield U., 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

York County Livestock Day, 4-H Center, Bair, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday, April 4

Palm Sunday  
Daylight Saving  
Time Begins

Gloucester Co. N.J. 4-H Tack Sale, 4-H Fairgrounds, Mullica Hill, N.J., 8:30 a.m.

Monday, April 5

Mercer Co. Sheep Shearing School, Carl Gadsby Farm, Grove City, thru April 6.

Farm Rescue and Safety, Lebanon Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-noon and 7 p.m.-10 p.m. (rescheduled).

Tuesday, April 6

Berks Co. 4-H Supper Series, 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Pa. Poultry Sales and Service Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, Penn State, thru April 7.

Keystone Farm Credit meeting, Days Inn and Conference Center, Allentown, 7 p.m.

Pa. Dairy Princess promotion meeting, southeast, Holiday Inn, Denver, 9:30 a.m.-3:30

p.m.

Wednesday, April 7

Mercer Co. Sheep Shearing School, Whiting Farm, Pulaski, thru April 8.

Keystone Farm Credit meeting, Willow Valley Conference Center, Willow Street, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 8

Ag Issues Forum, Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim, 7:30

a.m.-9 a.m.

Delaware-Chester Farmers Association annual spring banquet, West Fallowfield School, Oxford, 6:45 p.m.

Dairy tour to Carroll Co. from Adams Co.

Keystone Farm Credit meeting, The Inn at Reading, 7 p.m.

Tillage and Residue Management Field Day, Seiler Farm, Westminster, Md., 12:30 p.m.

Friday, April 9  
Good Friday

Mercer Co. Sheep Shearing School, McMullen Farm, Sugar Grove, thru April 10.

Saturday, April 10

Pa. Holstein Showcase Sale, Ag Arena, State College, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 11  
Easter

Monday, April 12

PennWest Farm Credit meeting, Edinboro Inn, Edinboro, 7 p.m.

## Farm Forum

Editor:

Herds of deer find protection in state and county parks and in large tracts of land where hunting is not permitted. These same deer feed off of farmers crops doing immeasurable damage. They strip bark from trees and destroy expensive plants during snow storms. Motorists traveling the highways, sometimes at high speeds, are often unaware of them and are unable to avoid hitting them when they appear as if from no where. Almost always there is severe damage to the vehicle and often there are personal injuries. Last year at least ninety deer were killed by cars in northern Chester County, one hundred were killed in the Valley Forge area and many were hit in southern Berks County. Who is responsible for the dam-

age done by these deer? Since they are game, to be hunted under the jurisdiction of the state game commission, it can be said that they belong to the commonwealth.

Now, if a motorist is injured because of a missing guardrail, warning sign, pot hole or low shoulder, he can sue the state for negligence. Using the same logic, why cannot a farmer or a motorist whose property is damaged by the deer sue the commonwealth?

Of course motorists can collect from their insurance for automobile damage done by deer. If a farmer's cows get out and damage a neighbor's property, the farmer's insurance will pay for the damage the first time but not after that. If the deer belong to the state, isn't the state responsible for the

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## NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz  
Lancaster County  
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### To Handle Farm Animals With Care

Farm animals need proper care and management, but remember that many domestic animals are physically stronger than humans.

Accidents may hurt both people and animals, and cut into profits.

Protect yourself by being careful each time you work with animals. Wear protective clothes, footwear, gloves, and headgear as necessary. Keep floors and ramps clean and clutter free to ensure good footing. Make sure handling and restraining facilities are up to the task.

Be extra careful with animals that are frightened, hurt, sick or young. Handle males, especially

bulls, with respect. Always leave yourself an "out" in case an animal becomes uncontrollable. Know your escape route before entering the pen. Be prepared to go over or under a fence or up a wall. When caring for sick or birthing animals, wear gloves and other protective garb. Do not smoke, eat, or drink until you have washed and changed clothing after working with animals.

Keep children out of animal barns, feedlots, and other hazardous areas.

### To Prevent Poisonings

Children under the age of 5 are the most frequent victims of poisonings. Infants and toddlers are at a higher risk.

Common household items such as medicines, makeup, cleaners, and plants account for most home poisonings. On a farm, where children have a risk of finding pesticides, other chemicals, fertilizers and industrial cleaners, including milk sanitizers, preventing poisonings is even more important.

Many accidental poisonings may be treated safely at home, but get medical advice first. Find the number of your local poison con-

trol center and keep it near your phone.

It is also a good idea to keep Syrup of Ipecac in your home. Because it causes vomiting, Ipecac is a treatment for some types of poisonings. Most drug stores sell it for under \$3.

Never give a child Ipecac or anything else without first receiving medical advice.

### To Know How

#### To Handle Poisonings

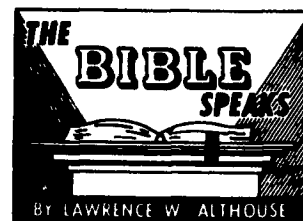
If you suspect a poisoning, stay calm and keep the person calm. Look in the person's mouth and remove any pills, pieces of plant, or other physical objects.

Take the person and the poison or pesticide to a phone and call the poison control center. Be prepared to tell the person's age, weight, the type of poison, and the amount swallowed.

Follow their directions. Never give a person anything without first calling the poison control center or a doctor.

In a poisoning, the best intentions may cause more harm than good.

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "You become successful by helping others become successful."*



IS THIS ANY WAY  
TO BE HAPPY?  
April 4, 1993

Background Scripture: John 13:1-20.

Devotional Reading: John 13:31-36.

Time and again in the John's Gospel someone whom Jesus encounters seems to misunderstand what he is saying and doing. In John 3, when Jesus said, "... unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God," Nicodemus asks, "How can a man be born when he is old?" (John 3:3,4).

Nicodemus' misunderstanding gives Jesus the opportunity to emphasize the point he is making.

In John 13 it is Peter who misses the point. When Jesus comes to wash Peter's feet, he protests, "You shall never wash my feet!" In Peter's mind it is demeaning for Jesus the Teacher to stoop to wash their feet, performing a task meant for servants. We can understand why Peter reacted as he did — it seemed all wrong for Jesus to humble himself so. And, in light of the values which prevail in our world today, it would still be "all wrong".

What Peter did not understand then and what we often do not realize today is that humble service is not degrading when love is our motive. Love is the key. John says of Jesus, "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" (13:1b). Having said this, John goes on to tell us that he "poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet..." (13:5). In this act of humble service he did not tell them of his love, he showed them.

### PETER JUMPED

So, when Peter tries to dissuade him, Jesus says: "If I do not wash you, you have no part in me" (13:8). To reject this service, says Jesus, is to reject his love. So, Peter, always impulsively jumping to conclusions, jumps to a hasty one: "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head"! And once again Peter has misunder-

stood: this is not about getting one's feet washed, but about accepting the love that is being offered. The washing of the feet is only a sign. Once again Jesus has to explain: "He who has bathed does not need to wash; but he is clean all over" (13:10). When Christ gives his love to us, we don't have to measure it or ask to double the dose. The benefit is not in how much of the body Jesus washes; this is a qualitative act, not a quantitative one.

Perhaps hardest to understand for Peter is that he expected them to do it too. "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet". Let's not misunderstand, Jesus is not saying that footwashing is to become normative for his disciples, but humble service is. The foot washing was just the outward example. The love is the inner reality.

### TRY IT!

This is what is expected among his disciples. "For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you". Jesus overturns our human ideas and values, which are based upon "getting", not "giving".

Jesus goes on to say something even more surprising: "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them" (13:17). If we humbly serve others, we will be happy. "Blessed" means "happy" or "fortunate". We think these things will degrade us, but Jesus assures us that they will uplift us. We are not demeaned by performing humbling tasks, but blessed. According to the world's values, being served makes us happy. According to Jesus, serving is what brings us happiness. He not only said that, but he demonstrated it. Rendering humble service to others: is that any way to be happy? Why not try it and find out for yourself?

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