



OPINION

God Forbid That We Should Ever Forget

In pursuit of freedom, they came to this distant, unknown land.

Seeking the right to worship freely, they left family and friends, jobs, and the security that comes with living in a familiar setting.

They faced a harsh new environment, wary natives, were unprepared and unfamiliar with how to make a living on these primitive, forested shores.

Indeed, many of them starved to death.

Then, they learned to farm.

Oh, it was surely primitive by today's standards, crude tools, fish for fertilizer, cutting trees and burning to clear land. Back-breaking labor, which many of them had perhaps not before known.

But after they learned to farm, they ate. They put away for the winter. And they survived.

Once fed, they prospered, grew, fanned out to settle this America.

They built settlements, raised families. Elected leaders and established a government.

Because they were fed, our founding fathers could pursue this experiment in freedom. Even then, the rich soils and productivity of American farms freed a good portion of the citizenry to pursue the finer points of civilization. Doctors, teachers, craftspeople, printers, shopkeepers, preachers.

They organized, rebelled against oppression, formed an army. Threw off the yoke of foreign rule. Led by bands of farmers, who laid down their plows and took up rifles, this fledgling, upstart nation of renegades rebelled against one of the world's mightiest powers. And won.

Because they were fed, they could defend this precious freedom.

Seeking land they could call their own to farm, the more adventurous among the populous headed West. Civilization followed as farmers split the virgin prairie soil with plows and fattened cows and sheep for food and fiber on its lush grasses.

Because there was abundance of food, railroads followed. Rutted wagon paths widened into roadways. Ports grew. Immigrants from around the world fled oppression and hunger in their native lands to embrace this land of peace - and plentiful food.

With full bellies, inventive minds were free to dream and dare. To power with waterwheels and belt drives. To dig canals, to mine useful minerals, to raise up institutions of medicine and of learning. To invent the likes of electricity and steam engines and gasoline motors.

A fed country is a country with freedom to grow, to imagine, to try, to dream. A hungry country expends its limited energy stalking its next meal, generally amid political, social and economic chaos.

Because we were fed, American ingenuity has prospered. Curious minds have been freed to develop rocket science and nuclear power, cures for polio and controls for insects which spread killer diseases, lasers, microwaves, instant communication and computerization.

America is certainly not perfect. Still, others continue to arrive at our steps, yearning for freedom from oppression, from dictators, from war and from the wrenching hunger still prevalent in too many parts of the world, hunger which skeletonizes aging bodies and bloats the bellies of starving infants.

Yet, after more than 200 years of abundance, we increasingly seem to take for granted that we are free because we are fed. We have become a citizenry too far removed from the source of plenty. Generations distant from tilling the soil need to know more about the production of food for our national full bellies. It might simply magically materialize somewhere in the dark recesses of supermarket warehouses.

As we celebrate our national birthday on July 4, may we remember that we have come this far because we have not had to scabble, hand to hand for every daily bite. America's rich agriculture resources and productivity have powered our prosperity.

We are free because we are fed.

God forbid that we ever forget or neglect that blessing.

— Joyce Bupp, On Being A Farm Wife — And Other Hazards. Lancaster Farming, June 29, 1991.



NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Attend

Animal Housing Expo

If you are in a poultry, livestock or dairy business and are interested in building, remodeling or expanding, you will want to attend the Animal Housing Expo. The event will be held at the Lebanon Fairgrounds on July 13 and 14.

Visit a host of exhibitors and see what products and services are available. Observe the new product's display plus a variety of demonstrations on floor surfaces, pit ventilation, freestall design, swine handling, poultry composting, and more.

Panels of producers will be sharing their experiences on dairy expansion and remodeling, trends in the swine industry, and poultry mortality composting. Speakers include Dr. Temple Grandin, Colorado State University, discussing successful animal handling techniques and Mike Gamroth, Oregon State University, discussing getting the most from your milking parlor.

Topics to be addressed by other speakers include environmental impact studies, basic ventilation concepts, update on the nutrient management law, and handling swine safely. The expo is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

For more information on the Expo, see related articles and ads in this paper.

To Evaluate Creep Feeding Cattle

When pasture quality deteriorates in the summer, your beef calf crop could suffer from lowered weaning weights, according to

Farm Forum

Dear Editor,

You are to be complimented for your fine report of the National Dairy Summit recently held in York, Pa.

Everyone should have felt honored to have the event held in Pennsylvania.

However, I feel too many people, including some farm organizations and dairy cooperatives had a lackadaisical attitude towards the Summit. Possibly some were expecting a small turnout for the event, which might indicate little interest on the part of dairy farmers for any change in dairy policies. For those who thought this way, they were certainly fooled.

It's odd that so many people were unaware of the event taking place. The event was conceived at Secretary Espy's confirmation hearing. Since the hearing, we in PRO AG started working to build up support for the Summit.

In March we merged our efforts
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Chester Hughes, extension livestock agent.

That is the time to provide some type of supplement, such as creep feeding.

The decision to creep feed is not all that easy. You must consider forage conditions, milk production levels, calf growth potentials, projected weaning weights, price spreads between calves of different body conditions, calf prices, and plans for retained ownership.

One critical consideration is the cost of added gain. The most efficient conversions of creep feed to added weaning weight are seen when calves cannot reach weaning weights appropriate for their growth potential without supplemental feed.

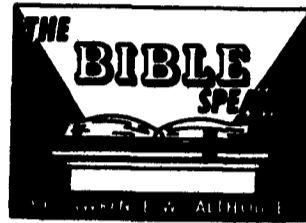
Another condition conducive to creep feeding is low grain prices relative to feeder calf prices. Input costs may be lowered while potential revenue remains constant. Also, if you are planning on retaining ownership of the calves, you reap the benefits of added weight gain.

To Improve Conception Rates

One of the challenges dairy farmers face during hot summer days is getting cows bred. When body temperatures are high, cows fail to conceive and bulls may temporarily become sterile.

Conception rates also decline when cows are off feed and become poor in flesh. To minimize these problems, Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, offers the following tips: 1. Keep cows well fed and in good flesh. 2. Keep cows cool with shade, fans, etc. 3. Do not allow cows to become excited and overheated. 4. Observe cows for heat signs during cooler hours of the day and night. 5. Use heat detection aides. 6. Synchronize heats so more cows are sexually active at appointed times. 7. Plan your calving programs so fewer cows need to be bred during the heat of the summer.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "The future is not a gift — it is an achievement."



WHAT A REPUTATION!
July 4, 1993

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Background Scripture:
Colossians 1

Devotional Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

The churches are big news today. Unfortunately, most of it is bad news.

A noted televangelist is accused of living the prodigal life style of "the rich and famous." A major denomination is torn by a vicious struggle over national leadership. A local church is devastated in finding that its treasurer has absconded with most of the Building Fund. The bishop of a certain denomination dies of AIDS after a secret long life as a homosexual. Members of an area religious coalition face a court injunction for harassing a local physician who performs abortions.

Unfortunately, I haven't made up any of the above — and there are lots more. The Good News of Jesus Christ is getting a lot of bad press.

That doesn't mean there isn't any good news for the churches, but it is the news that makes the morning papers, the grocery store tabloids and the evening TV news. It's about time that the Good News of Jesus Christ gets some good press. But, instead of this being one of those why-don't-they-do-something-about-it concerns, it is something that, if it is to be done, you and I must do it. (I know that wasn't what you had in mind — it wasn't what I would have picked either — but that's the way it is.)

All we need to do is to see that our local churches — your's and mine — earns a reputation something on the order of the one enjoyed by the church of Colossae. Biblical historians tell us that Colossae was a rather insignificant town of Phygia in Asia Minor (today's Turkey). Apart from Paul's letter in our New Testament, you're unlikely ever to find any references to Colossae either in history or our contemporary world. Colossae was the biblical times version of East Podunk.

But what a reputation they had there! This little backwater town was known throughout Asia Minor because of the exceptional quality of the Christian congregation there. Paul says, "we have heard of your faith in Jesus Christ and of the love which you have for all the saints" (Col. 1:4). Paul is in prison as he writes this letter and the good news about the Colossians has reached him even there. Paul even heard the good news from Epaphras, Paul's co-worker and founder of the Colossian church: "He is a faithful minister . . . and has made known to us your love in the Spirit" (1:8).

JUST FAITH & LOVE

I'll have to admit that the basis of Colossae's good news doesn't seem all that exciting: they are renowned for their faith and their love. The reputation that has been getting around says nothing about a beautiful church building, a record budget, the area's most popular preacher, or any of the more positive things for which a church is usually known. Just "faith" and "love."

But who could ask for anything more? "Faith" and "love" may not sound exciting, but, in light of the mess in which we find so much of our world today, is there anything really more exciting than Christians who keep the faith in a time of despair and practice Christlike love where bitterness, strife, and revenge are the commonplace realities?

That's what the church is really for, isn't it: to do the work of God that brings reconciliation, not division, into our world. If we really want to see the churches start getting some good press for a change, let's make some headlines with our faith and love.

(For information concerning the 33rd Spa Holiday in Badgastein, Austria with the Althouses, Aug. 27 - Sept. 11, write: Friendship Tours, 4412 Shenandoah Ave., Dallas, TX 75205 (214) 521-2522.)

Lancaster Farming

Established 1955

Published Every Saturday

Ephrata Review Building

1 E. Main St.

Ephrata, PA 17522

— by —

Lancaster Farming, Inc.

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Everett R. Newmeyer Managing Editor

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Farm Calendar

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