



# OPINION

## Seek Dairy Exports

The US dairy industry needs to get serious about export development in order to take full advantage of the new markets coming international trade agreements will open to all the world's dairy producing nations. That was the message of Tom Camerlo, president of the National Milk Producers Federation, when he addressed the Western Large Herd Dairy Management Conference in Las Vegas.

Camerlo thinks an eventual North American Free Trade Agreement will not only open up trade with Latin America and Asian Nations, it will also provide additional opportunities for US dairy exports to other countries.

With the size and efficiency of our dairy industry, it is amazing that we don't do more in exporting our products. For example, almost one third of our US milk production goes into making cheese, yet we rank only tenth in cheese exports. We have a world-class dairy industry, but it has focused most of its attention on the domestic market.

With the rapidly developing countries comes the increasing potential for increased dairy consumption abroad. This growth opens the demand for high-quality dairy products. Our dairy farmers can best fill this demand. Therefore, the opportunities to export dairy products should be more vigorously pursued.

## Farm Forum

### Editor:

I am writing to you to respond to a renewed concern about pesticide residues in the food supply. Also to respond to a National Research Council Report that was released June 29, 1993. As a fruit-grower, the memories of the Alar scare of four years ago are all too recent a memory. Only 2-percent of the population are farmers, and we have a tremendous responsibility to the consumers, ourselves and our environment. I must say that farmers in general are trying to reduce their use of chemicals and slowly but surely we are.

On my own farm for 1993, I applied for and received a small grant to study biological control for insects and diseases on fruit. It was obtained from the Low Input Sustainable Agriculture Foundation from the University of Vermont.

What I am doing with this grant is conducting experiments on using little or no insecticides on five acres of peaches and using

biological controls to keep the insects in check. Some blocks have not been sprayed at all and others only when monitoring indicated an insecticide was needed. Monitoring is done with traps that catch the male insect, and only when so many are caught in a trap for a week is insecticide used.

I am also using "mating disruption" or "sexual confusion" as I call it to keep the males from finding the females. To date, it is proving very effective. To control disease, I strictly monitor weather conditions and check a leaf wetness recorder to pinpoint infections. At this time, it has saved three sprayings which amounted to 300 pounds of chemical which has not had to be used. I feel this is significant because I only have 20 acres of apples. Imagine the savings if all orchards used this.

All of this new technology is wonderful but it is expensive. The mating disruption is three times as expensive as conventional insecti-

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## Farm Calendar



### Saturday, July 17

Pa. Simmental Assoc. annual Field Day, Foust Hidden Oaks, Gettysburg, thru July 18.

Bedford Co. Sheep and Wool Jackpot and Field Day, Bedford Co. Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Berks/Southeast Cattlemen's summer field trip, leaves Berks Ag Center 7:30 a.m., returns mid-evening.

Schaefferstown Folk Festival, Farm, Schaefferstown, thru July 18.

Bradford-Sullivan Forest Landowners Association annual bus tour, A&P parking lot, North Towanda, 8 a.m.

Bradford Co. Holstein Club picnic, Thomson Farm, Runnerfield, 11 a.m.

York Co. Beekeepers annual picnic, Rudy Park, 4 p.m.

### Sunday, July 18

Jefferson Co. Fair, Brookville, thru July 24.

Celebrating Chester Co. Farming picnic, Upper Oxford Community Park, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

PSA Simmental Field Day and Sale, Foust Hidden Oaks, Gettysburg.

### Monday, July 19

N.E. District 4-H Dairy Judging/Dairy Bowl, Bradford Co. Bradford extension office, 9:30 a.m.

### Tuesday, July 20

Lancaster Co. 4-H Activities Day, Manheim Fairgrounds.

Southeast FFA District Dairy Show, Lebanon Fairgrounds, 8 a.m.

Field Crop twilight meeting, Snyder Research and Extension Farm, Pittstown, N.J., 7 p.m.-9



**NOW IS THE TIME**  
By John Schwartz  
Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

### To Check Alfalfa For Leafhoppers

The most devastating pest to alfalfa is the potato leafhopper. These insects are present every year. They are small in size, but they pack a powerful wallop!

Because they do not eat the plant, the full impact of their damage often goes unnoticed until it is too late to control the problem. They are sap suckers. As they suck sap from the plant, they also inject a powerful toxin that severely weakens the plant, stunting its growth, causing it to turn yellow, lowering its protein content, and reducing its ability to survive the winter and other stresses.

They are particularly devastating to a new spring seeding of alfalfa. On established stands, they migrate back into the field soon after cutting with the heaviest damage occurring at the edges of the field.

Leafhoppers are small and flighty and difficult to see. It only takes a few of them to inflict severe damage to the stand. When the regrowth is about 4 to 6 inches high, sweep the field with an insect net. If you catch more than 2 leafhoppers per 10 sweeps, it is time to spray the field for protection.

The Penn State Agronomy Guide lists the following insecticides for potato leafhopper control: Ambush, Cygon, Diazinon, PennCap-M, Pounce, and Supracide. As with all pesticides, be sure to read the label and follow all instructions, especially rates and harvesting instructions.

### To Monitor Soil Fertility In Alfalfa

Maintaining good soil fertility is a key to keeping productive alfalfa stands.

Determine fertilizer needs by a soil test. Be aware that many fields in Pennsylvania have high phosphorus and potash levels from repeated applications of animal manures. If this is your situation, you may be able to harvest alfalfa for 1 to 3 years without additional fertilizer. This will allow the alfalfa to reduce the phosphorus and potash levels that has accumulated in the soil.

Take soil tests every year to monitor the drop in fertility levels so you will know when to start fertilizing or applying manure again. Be careful not to let the potash level drop below the optimum level or you may lose your stand.

After any of the cuttings of alfalfa is a good time to apply any needed fertilizer or lime. Apply

p.m.

Adams Co. Crops Field Day, Smith Farm, Hanover, 9 a.m.  
Adams Co. 4-H/FFA Swine and Sheep Sale, South Mountain

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phosphorus, potash, and lime according to the recommendations from the soil test.

Soil test kits are available from your county Penn State Cooperative Extension office.

### To Feed Cattle On Withered Pastures

If you are depending on pastures to feed your herd this summer, be sure your animals are getting sufficient feed.

The recent heat wave has caused many permanent pastures to go into dormancy and produce considerably less feed than did a few weeks earlier. The big losers in this situation could be the animals that depend upon these pastures for most of their feed.

With inadequate feed intake, animals lose a lot of the weight they gained in the previous weeks. To you the producer, it means you have lost the cost of putting on

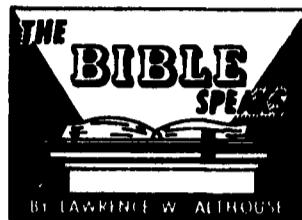
those pounds and now will have to absorb those costs again.

Also, underconditioned animals need more time to reach market weights or breeding weights. Conceptions are much lower and pregnant animals may abort or have birthing difficulties.

Another risk is that of poisoning. If animals become hungry, they are more apt to consume toxic plants that are growing in the pasture. These would be plants they normally avoid if they had the choice of other feeds. The problem is magnified when animals are underfed because there is less good feed being consumed to dilute out the toxic effect of poisonous plants.

To avoid these risks and costs, be sure to provide animals additional feeds when pastures become less productive.

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "The only way to make a man trustworthy is to trust him."*



THINGS ABOVE  
July 18, 1993

### Background Scripture:

Colossians 3

### Devotional Reading:

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

A Gallop Poll tells us that some eight million people in the USA—about one in 20—have experienced a phenomenon called the Near-Death Experience. This is the name given to the experience that some people report after being medically resuscitated from death or near-death. In some, there had been a cessation of breathing, heartbeat and/or brainwaves. During this period many people had experiences of floating out of their bodies, watching what was happening in the operating room from a point on or near the ceiling of the room, passing down a long, dark tunnel to a source of great light, and encountering both departed friends and relatives and "a being of light" often associated with Christ.

My purpose is not to get into the question of the Near-Death Experience (NDE) and what it means, but to look at the usual consequences of the NDE. Almost all reporting this experience have also said that it was a life-changing phenomenon. Having "glimpsed the other side," they returned to "life on this side" free of the fear of death and with a sense of peace and purpose. Death may be a life-changing experience in a way many of us had not expected.

### LIFTED TO NEW LIFE

When Paul says, "For you have died..." and "if then you have been raised..." he is using a dramatic metaphor. In a mystical, although not physical, sense when we commit ourselves to follow Christ as our Lord and Savior, it is as if we die with him on the cross and then are resurrected with him as well. The presence of Christ in our lives brings radical changes. With that sacramental death we let go of everything in our old life, and with his resurrection we are lifted up into a new life.

For one thing, the person who has given himself to Christ finds a different focus for his or her life. Before, we lived lives that were pretty earth-focused. That was the

source of our values and perceptions which were pretty much based on self-satisfaction in the short run because that seems to be the norm of our society today: get as much as you can as fast as you can and as often as you can.

Having passed with Christ from life to death and from death to resurrection, we need a new focus for our lives; "the things that are above" — ultimate rather than immediate satisfaction, spiritual instead of material values.

### PLAIN SPEAKING

Up to this point, Paul has been rather poetic. But he knew there is a need for plain speaking here, too. So he spells out in very practical behavioral terms what he means by the old life of "things that are on earth" — "immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness which is idolatry" (3:5). All of the above belong to the "old life" to which we died with Christ. And just in case he needs to be even more explicit, Paul spells it out: "...anger, wrath, malice, slander and foul talk from your mouth. Do not live to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices..." (3:10). When we die with Christ, all of these characteristics must die with us.

But Paul's message is not so much about death as it is resurrection and the new life it heralds. What is that new life? "Put on then, as God's chosen ones...compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other" (3:12, 13).

Whenever you get to wondering where you are in course of your life as a follower of Jesus Christ, take a look at your life and see whether it is the old or new life that predominates. "If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is..."

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

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