



## OPINION

### Regulation Based On Sound Information

The U.S. Animal Welfare Act authorizes the U.S. Department of Agriculture to regulate the care and treatment of animals used for research or exhibition, sold as pets at the wholesale level or transported in commerce. The act also has record-keeping provisions to ensure compliance. The act does not apply to farm animals used for production purposes. But some critics of the current confinement livestock production systems are pressing to extend the act to cover farm animals.

Regulations for the care and welfare of farm animals need to be based on research and education, not emotions. James Glosser, VMD, told the meeting of the American Society of Animal Science that before we regulate, we need to know what needs to be regulated and how it needs to be regulated.

Right now, 98 percent of the population is non-agrarian and their value systems are much different than those held by people involved in livestock production. This means people involved in animal agriculture need to educate the rest of the nation. "We need to make an effort to reach out and tell our story," Glosser said. "We need to correct the misinformation that's out there about how animals are raised and used."

Not every farmer cares for animals in the best way, and livestock producers and associations need to use peer pressure to make sure producers use accepted practices for raising and caring for animals. We should not need government regulation to have this done.

Some livestock production practices may need to be eliminated or changed. It's in the interest of animal agriculture to assess actions that are abhorrent to society or dangerous to animals. If we've researched an issue and debated it and still find the need for regulation, then that's the time to regulate.

Let's hope we don't regulate the livestock industry based on emotion. Regulation must be based on sound information.

## Farm Calendar



### Saturday, August 21

Central Pennsylvania Holstein Championship Show, Huntingdon Fairgrounds, 3 p.m.  
Ephrata Area Young Farmers Ice-cream Social, Woodcrest Retreat, 7-9 p.m.  
Northeast 4-H Dairy Show, Bloomsburg Fair.  
Berks County Harvest Show, Balis Ag Center, thru August 21.  
SAFE Kids/Farm Safety Meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.  
Southeast Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Show, Berks County 4-H Community Center, Leesport, 8:30 a.m.  
Somerset County Fair, Meyersdale, thru August 28.  
Crawford County Fair, Meadville, thru August 28.  
Westmoreland Fair, Greensburg, thru August 29.

### Sunday, August 22

National Association of County Ag Agents annual meeting, Baltimore, Md., thru August 26.  
Somerset Co. Fair, Meyersdale, thru Aug. 28.  
Crawford Co. Fair, Meadville, thru Aug. 28.  
Transfer Harvest Home Fair, Greenville, thru Aug. 28.  
Westmoreland Fair, Greensburg, thru Aug. 29.

### Monday, August 23

Central Pa. Holstein Championship Show, Fairgrounds, Huntingdon, 9:30 a.m.  
South Central 4-H Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex.  
Dubois Fair, Dubois, thru Aug. 28.  
Fulton Co. Fair, McConnellsburg,

### thru Aug. 28.

Mountain Area Fair, Farmington, thru Aug. 28.  
West End Fair, Gilbert, thru Aug. 28.

### Tuesday, August 24

Northeast Pa. Holstein Championship Show, Fairgrounds, Whittneyville, 10 a.m.  
National Association of County Ag Agents Pa. Night Out, Rusty Scupper Restaurant, Baltimore, Md.  
Elizabethtown Community Fair, Elizabethtown, thru Aug. 28.  
Hookstown Fair, Hookstown, thru Aug. 28.  
Northumberland Co. Conservation District twilight meeting, Turbot Pk. Bldg., 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

### Wednesday, August 25

Eastern Pa. Holstein Championship Show, Kutztown Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.  
Lancaster County Holstein Association Field Day, John Coleman Farm, Ronks, 10 a.m.  
S.W. Pa. Ag Technology Day, Westmoreland Fairgrounds Farmstead, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
S.E. Pa. Dairy Pasture Walk, Curtis and Brenda Dietrich Farm, Jacksonville, Lehigh Co., 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

### Friday, August 27

Southeast 4-H Dairy Show, Kutztown Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.  
Centre Co. Grange Fair, Centre Hall, thru Sept. 2.  
S.E. Pa. 4-H Horse Show, Montgomery Co. 4-H Center, Creamery, 10 a.m.



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

### To Examine Nitrates And Reproduction

In recent years, there has been concern about potential problems associated with elevated levels of nitrates in feedstuffs.

Frequently, nitrate toxicity is implicated as the cause of lowered conception rates and abortion. Results of research designed to examine the effect of nitrate-nitrite toxicity on reproduction have been inconclusive. Abortions and increased services per conception have been reported in some studies, but not in others.

When other signs of toxicity appear, abortion may occur. However, there is only a remote possibility of abortion occurring without other signs of toxicity. It should be noted that abortion is likely to occur with marginal levels of nitrates when other contaminants such as mycotoxins are also present.

### To Understand Nitrates

The concept of nitrate-nitrite toxicity is complex, according to Dr. Michael O'Connor, Penn State Department of Dairy and Animal Science. The type of diet, rate of intake of feeds containing nitrates, and physiological state of the animal all affect the response to consumption of feedstuffs high in nitrates.

Clinical signs of toxicity are

### Saturday, August 28

Maryland State Fair, Fairgrounds, thru Sept. 6.

### Sunday, August 29

Indiana Co. Fair, Indiana, thru Sept. 4.

Allentown Fair, thru Sept. 5.

### Monday, August 30

Dairy Day at the New York State Fair.

### Tuesday, August 31

Big Knob Grange Fair, Rochester, thru Sept. 4.

Wattsburg/Erie County Fair, Wattsburg, thru Sept. 5.

Greene-Dreher-Sterling Fair, Newfoundland, thru Sept. 6.

Allentown Fair, thru Sept. 6.

### Wednesday, September 1

Centre County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Centre Hall, 9 a.m.

South Mountain Community Fair, Arendtsville, thru Sept. 5.

Stoveboro Fair, Stoveboro, thru Sept. 6.

Wyoming County Fair, Tunkhannock, thru Sept. 6.

### Thursday, September 2

Dairy Reproduction Barn Meeting, Parke H. Ranck, Jr., Strasburg, 7 p.m.

Fulton County Conservation Field Day, McConnellsburg.

### Friday, September 3

Central 4-H Dairy Show, Mifflin County Youth Park.

related to anoxia (lowered tissue oxygen levels). These include rapid or difficult breathing, abnormal muscle activity, discoloration of mucous membranes, and high levels of methemoglobin in the blood.

If nitrates are suspected to be a problem, test all forages and water for nitrates. Determine the total amount of nitrates consumed from forage, concentrates, and water. Feedstuff with higher levels may be used if they are blended with feeds low in nitrates. This will reduce the total amount of nitrate consumed in a single meal.

Stored forages with less than 1,100 ppm nitrate-nitrogen (NO<sub>3</sub>-N) may usually be fed free choice. More detailed information and guidelines about nitrate toxicity is available in dairy extension fact sheet DAS 92-107, "Prevention and Control of Nitrate Toxicity in Cattle" (PENpages 08902196).

### To Be Aware Of Zoonosis

Zoonosis is a disease communicable from animals to man under

natural conditions. The potential for human disease acquired from animals should never be overlooked when dealing with diseased animals. This includes parasites from dogs and cats and animals with diarrhea.

Some precautions include:

- Quarantine all new-arriving animals.
- Practice strict sanitation around animals with diarrhea and limit human contact with animals, especially children.
- Seek medical attention if an associated diarrhea occurs in humans.
- Avoid smoking, eating, or drinking when working with animals.
- Have well or spring tested at least twice a year for coliforms. If positive, treat the water.
- Always wash hands with soap and water before eating.

By practicing good personal hygiene, you will greatly reduce the chances of becoming a victim of zoonosis.

*Feather Prof's Footnote:* "Thorough preparation makes its own luck."



**WHO'S THE HEAD OF  
THE HOUSE?**  
August 22, 1993

### Background Scripture:

Ephesians 5:21 - 6:4

### Devotional Reading:

Colossians 3:12-21

"Don't you believe the Bible?" someone asked a counselling client of mine. My client had said that a husband and wife can share both responsibility and authority in a marriage. But her questioner trotted out Ephesians 5:21-24 as proof that her view was unbiblical.

"How can I answer a question like that?" my client wanted to know. It seemed all too clear that the writer of Ephesians believes that a patriarchal family is God's will for all Christians: "Wives, be subject to your husbands... For the husband is the head of the wife..." (5:22, 23). And just to make sure we get the point: "...so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands" (5:24).

Lots of commentators ignore or give short shrift to these verses and concentrate instead on Ephesians 5:21, "Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ," an admonition, it would appear, to mutual subjection. But as I read on, the writer doesn't seem to be talking about mutual subjection, but the priority of the husband. Wives are counselled to "be subject," but the admonition to husbands is on an entirely different level: "Husbands, love your wives..." (5:25). Wives should "be subject" to their husbands and husbands should "love" their wives. That doesn't sound like "mutual subjection" to me.

### SUBMISSION

So, I turned to my biblical commentary to see if I could find some help there. Not really, for although the commentator talked about "mutual subjection," he also went on to say some things that were normative in the church 40 years ago when this commentary was published: "A Christian husband still exercises an authority which the wife must forgo... the primary submission must perforce still devolve upon the wife" (Interpreter's Bible, Vol. 10, p. 719).

"But it's in the Bible!" some protest. Yes, and so is the acceptance of slavery (Eph. 6:5-9, Col. 3:33, 4:1), dictatorships and tyranny (Rom. 13:1, 1 Pet. 2:13, 14, Heb. 13:17). So is the admonition for parents to stone to death a rebellious son (Deut. 21:21), or a daughter who has lost her virginity before marriage (Deut. 22:21). It also countenances taking captive a "beautiful woman" as one of the spoils of war (Deut. 21:10-14) and polygamy (Deut. 21:15). If the Christian must literally obey all that is in the Bible, then all of us had better prepare for major revisions in our life-style and society. I know of no Christian who lives by all these rules and permissions. Nor do I even know of anyone who advocates them.

### A DIFFERENT WORLD

So, if Ephesians was written in a time when slavery, tyranny, and patriarchal families were the norm that does not mean that we have to accept these in our own time. The world of the early Church is not the world of today. I can read this passage, accentuating the positive and eliminating the negative, thus focussing on "mutual subjection" and claiming for both husbands and wives a mutual love which Ephesians enjoins only upon the husbands.

And, without stretching a point, I can see a very positive aspect to the whole passage. The writer is accepting his society as he finds it, but he also infuses it with a spirit that eventually would be the destruction of it. By focussing upon Christ, he is holding up a model that transcends questions of authority, rights and privileges: "...as Christ is head of the Church..." "as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."

Sometime ago, someone called and wanted to speak to "the head of the house." Not entirely with tongue in cheek, I replied: "I'm sorry, Jesus can't come to the phone."

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