



OPINION

Beef Is Number One

Cattlemen don't just produce beef. They produce American jobs. That's the message Scott Barao, extension livestock specialist at the University of Maryland, wants the fine folks that produce cattle to know. Barao says he loves the cattle industry, and in his latest editor's corner in the university ag newsletter he lists a number of facts worth knowing.

The cattle industry is the largest segment of the American agricultural economy with sales of cattle and calves accounting for about \$40 billion, a fourth of all cash receipts from farm marketings in the U.S. Cattle represent 46 percent of sales of all livestock and livestock products.

The family businesses run by cattlemen generate almost \$250 billion annually in U.S. business activity, or between four and five percent of the \$5.673 trillion U.S. gross domestic product. Cattlemen provide one million jobs directly in the beef business and nearly two million more business-related jobs all across America.

U.S. exports of cattle products account for about \$4 billion in export sales each year, or about 11 percent of total U.S. ag exports. The U.S. produces 22 percent of the world's beef supply but has only 10 percent of the world's cattle inventory. Beef exports mean American jobs. For every \$1 billion of American-produced products which are exported, 20,000 domestic jobs are created.

The retail value of the sale of fresh beef in 1991 was nearly \$50 billion. Approximately \$23 billion is spent for fresh beef in grocery stores. Beef is the largest dollar volume item sold in grocery stores, accounting for more than six percent of all grocery store sales.

Cattle and beef operate in a free market. Prices are set by supply and demand, and there is no government price support program for beef.

"Where's the beef?" became a famous question after it was popularized by a TV commercial. But when it comes to consumer preference and a big booster of the American economy, there is no question. Beef is number one.

Farm Forum

Dear Editor:

We do agree that the Self-Help program would be a way for the dairy farmers to keep going and to keep the surplus milk sold at competitive prices.

If you go to two-tier pricing you will put a lot of farmers out of business.

Ammon Miller
Vice President

Dover Local Order 6
Eastern Milk Producers Co-op

Dear Editor:

As a voting member at the Eastern Milk Producers delegate meeting, I would like to tell you why it was an unanimous vote for the Self-Help plan.

Self-Help is a plan to set up a farmer-run marketing system to sell surplus dairy products abroad. The alternative to this is two-tier pricing.

Self-help will give all farmers the opportunity to market their products without supply controls. The foreign market area is now expanding and now is the time for farmers to become involved in this trade area.

With the trend in Washington toward cutting farm subsidies and assessing farmers for their own programs, it is now time for us to make our own markets. Self-help is that solution.

Janet M. Erway
RD 1 Box 226
Genesee, Pa.

Farm Calendar



Saturday, October 23

Sire Power Sale '93, Bloomsburg Fairgrounds, Bloomsburg, 11 a.m.

Pa. Simmental Association Keystone of Quality Fall Show and Sale, Greene County Fairgrounds, Waynesburg.

Buffalo Auction and Festival, Hollow Hill Farm, Paint Bank, Va., 9 a.m.

Dutch Country Calf Sale, Lebanon County Fairgrounds, 1:30 p.m.
Salem County N.J. 4-H Fall Beef Show and Sale, Salem County Fairgrounds, Woodstown, N.J., show 10:30 a.m., sale 1 p.m.

Annual Harvest Fest '93, Brown's Orchards Farm Market, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., also Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Adams Co. 4-H Dairy Club banquet, St. John's Church, New Chester, 7 p.m.

Sunday, October 24

United Nations Day
Pa. State Grange annual convention, Clarion, thru Oct. 28.

Monday, October 25

Tuesday, October 26

Lancaster County Poultry Association annual banquet, Willow Valley Convention Center,



NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Vaccinate For Rabies

Rabies is becoming an increasing problem.

Recently, a policeman was treated for rabies and a farm placed under quarantine because of animals being exposed to rabies.

Whether you own a pet or raise animals commercially, proper vaccinations for rabies will help ensure your dog, cat, horse, cow, sheep, hog, or goat lead a healthier and more productive life.

According to Rich Barczewski, University of Delaware extension livestock specialist, not vaccinating is like playing Russian roulette. You never know when a problem will arise.

Vaccines are relatively inexpensive compared to treatment regimes for rabies. And once the disease is contracted, the treatment may not be effective.

Rabies is caused by a virus that when left unchecked results in death of the infected animal, including humans. The disease is extremely infectious and is spread when one animal bites another.

Do not take chances. Talk with your veterinarian and family doctor and develop a rabies vaccination program for your animals.

To Remember Evergreens Lose Their Needles

Bruce Hellerick, extension horticultural agent, reminds us evergreens are constantly losing and replenishing their needles. He said we see them as perpetually green because healthy evergreens do not lose all of their foliage at the same time.

Needle life ranges from one to six years depending upon the type of tree. Spruce, hemlock, and yew retain green needles for three to five years. Pines, which have one to three needles in a cluster, also have a long needle life. White pine and arborvitae drop one-year-old needles. This is usually not apparent because old yellow or brown foliage is concealed by new needles.

The growing season, past or present, may affect this. During a rainy summer, most plants add a heavy growth of foliage. If this is followed by a dry summer, the light new growth will not camouf-

6:30 p.m.

Pa. Holstein Chester Co. annual meeting, West Fallowfield Christian School, Atglen, 7 p.m.

Penn/Jersey Equine Short Course, Rutgers U., 7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m., continues Oct. 27, Nov. 9, and Nov. 10.

ADADC District 1 meeting, St. Lawrence Inn, Canton, N.Y., 7:30 p.m.

Pa. State Brown Swiss Association
(Turn to Page A31)

lage the old drying needles.

To Check

Wood Burning Stoves

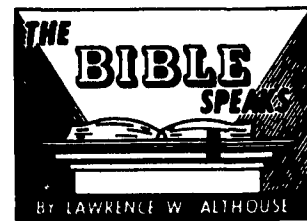
If you plan to burn wood in a stove this winter, take time to check the equipment to make sure it is safe and will function properly.

Wood stoves are never completely safe in all situations, according to West Virginia extension specialists. Users of wood stoves may significantly improve the safety and efficiency of a stove through timely maintenance and an understanding of some safety rules.

Some items to consider include:

- Carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions when installing a stove.

- Make sure there is adequate clearance between the stove and any nearby combustible surfaces or materials. The clearance should be at least 36 inches for radiant type heaters and at least 18 inches for circulating heaters.



WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?
October 24, 1993

Background Scripture:

Genesis 21: 1-21

Devotional Reading:

Genesis 21: 1-21

You've seen those puzzles that consist of a cartoon picture and the caption, "What's wrong with this picture?" At first glance, nothing may seem to be wrong. But as you study it more closely, you may see that the stool has only three legs, that the car has no door, that the cat has a dog's body, and so on.

When we read the stories of the Old Testament patriarchs and matriarchs, we need to do pretty much the same thing, lest we assume that the picture we get from these stories is the exact same picture that God wants to see us duplicate in our own lives. In other words, although these great personalities — Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, — were heroes of faith in their own times, not everything about their lives is intended by God to serve as a model for us. In fact, Christianity has but one infallible model: Jesus Christ.

So, when we read of Abraham and Sarah, we must be able to see both what is right and what is wrong with the picture the Bible gives us. Abraham was a man of great faith in God. That is why he is of value for us today, teaching us to trust in God even when believing his promises is difficult.

THE NORM OF THE DAY

But there are some elements in his life that we must not duplicate. One of these was his acceptance of slavery. We cannot find fault with him, for, in his own times, it was the norm. God had not yet been able to persuade his children that slavery is an evil against God and humanity. It would take more than 2,000 years for that idea to take hold in human consciousness. He did not know any better, but we do.

So, the attitude of Abraham toward Hagar is understandable, if not admirable. This "slave woman" had two strikes against her. First, she was a slave, which meant she was not regarded as a real person. She was what the Nazis considered *untersmenschen*

- Protect the floor under the stove with a nonflammable material.

- Store firewood away from the stove. Do not try to dry wet, frozen, or green wood on or near the stove.

- Stove pipes of at least six gauge metal or heavier are recommended. Keep stove pipe runs short.

- Equip the home with at least one working smoke detector and a Class ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher.

- The chimney should extend three or more feet above the highest point where it passes through the roof and should be at least two feet higher than any part of the buildings within 10 feet of the chimney.

- Check the chimney on a regular basis for soot or creosote deposits. Use a flashlight to look down the flue and clean as needed.

Feather Prof's Footnote:
"Deeds are fruit; words are leaves."

— sub-human, the category in which they placed Jews, Slavs and others. Secondly, Hagar was a woman and women were not generally regarded as equals with men. So, when jealous Sarah declares to him "Cast out this slave woman with her son..." Abraham's concern is not for the injustice to Hagar or the hardship it will mean for her, but for his son, Ishmael: "And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son" (21:11).

GOOD OUT OF EVIL

The decision to expel Hagar and Ishmael is Sarah's. Although she had originally instructed Abraham to have a child by Hagar, she found herself despising both the slave woman and Ishmael, the son that she had planned to call her own. Hagar had had no say in the matter. But, when Sarah had her own son, Isaac, she was determined that Ishmael be denied the rights of the first-born and be driven out with his mother to the wilderness and probable death. Again, we can understand if not approve of her attitude and actions.

I cannot believe that God was the author of this base idea. God is more compassionate and more just than we are, not less. Hagar and Ishmael had done nothing to deserve this fate. Perhaps the answer is that God saw that he could bring some good out of Sarah's selfish decision. Isaac would inherit Abraham's legacy, just as God intended before Sarah took matters in her own hands and made Hagar a concubine. And God would take care of both Hagar and Ishmael. In the long run, his gracious will for them would prevail, too.

The evil that befalls us in our lives is usually of our own making or the making of others. But God can use even the worst of situations to achieve good in his world. When we look at the picture of our world today, there is a lot that is "wrong with it." What's right with the picture is that God can still make it come out his way in the long run.

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Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Stehman Enterprise

Robert G. Campbell General Manager

Everett R. Newmeyer Managing Editor

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