



## OPINION

### A Dream Of Ownership

Students enrolled in some type of agriculture education at the regional colleges — such as Penn State, Delaware Valley College, University of Delaware, and University of Maryland — face a variety of opportunities when they choose their careers.

But the choice regarding their ultimate goal, what may lie deep in their hearts, may be extremely limited.

Many of those who have enrolled in 4-H and FFA while in high school have spoken to classmates that have grown up on a farm, and who know how beautiful and rewarding farm life can be. They know their friends and classmates who have been brought up on a farm may someday have that choice — to farm.

Some of those same would-be ag graduates also see many students who have grown up on the farm, and for whatever reason, decide they want to leave farming, leaving a void in the life of the farm and an economic rift in the future of the farm family.

Those same possible ag graduates, with an abiding love of farming and the farm life, hope someday to own a farm. But the costs of purchasing a farm, let alone the equipment and the materials, are beyond their economic capability. They learn, sadly, to resign themselves early on to the realization they will never own a farm.

We believe there must be a better way — a way to unite those who need someone to take over the farm with the students at the ag colleges who dream, night and day, of farm ownership. Staff of *Lancaster Farming* have met many students who yearn to own a farm, someday. Many would be willing to devote their lives to that one dream — farming.

Contact your local extension office or the ag college of your choice. If you have a farm that is available, rather than sell and divide it, allow those who want to become farmers but don't have the economic capability a chance to share in the reality of ownership.

It could literally make a difference regarding the economic and emotional well-being of future generations of farmers.

## NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz  
Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

**To Review  
Remodeling Plans**  
According to Chester Hughes, extension livestock agent, the "best" remodeled building is often the one that requires the fewest modifications.

When an existing building must be changed drastically to meet current needs, consider constructing a new building. Analyze the existing building to determine if it is more suited for some other purpose, rather than the one you have in mind.

For example, an uninsulated machine shed is easier to remodel for a swine breeding and gestation barn, than for a farrowing or nursery facility. Therefore, consider a new building for the nursery and remodel the machine shed for gestation.

Remodeling is not always the cheaper route either. When remodeling costs exceed 50 to 60 per cent of a new building, a new building is usually best. Remodeling costs should include any demolition of interior structural components and concrete floors. You should consider cost and availability of construction labor.

Because of the many "unknowns" in remodeling, many farm builders are hesitant to accept remodeling jobs. Before remodeling, carefully evaluate the existing building's structure, consider location, and plan for suitable manure management.

### To Improve Production

To compete in today's dairy economy requires high levels of efficient milk production per cow.

However, high production by itself does not guarantee a profit. Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, reminds us the important point is not how much production you need, but how do you obtain that production?

High production levels obtained with good breeding, good feeding, and overall good management generally are profitable. If you are culling an excessive number of problem cows and low producers and selling them at depressed prices, high production levels may come with a very high price tag and may not be profitable.

Another factor affecting profits is debt servicing costs. Young families getting started in dairying carry large debt loads.

To service this debt load, these young families have to be dairy managers! They need high levels of efficient production. Even then, profits may be very slim.

So the next time you hear that high production levels are not profitable, ask if consideration has been given to the age of farmers and the debt loads they are carrying.

### To Safeguard Our Milk Supply

Just a reminder that milk is a very safe and closely monitored food.

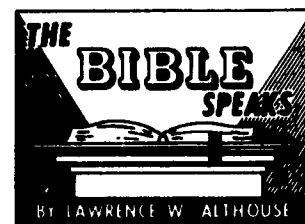
To insure this quality, most milk is never exposed to stable air as it moves from cow to tank. It is cooled down quickly after each milking and stored at less than 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

When milk is picked up at the farm it is checked for odors and proper temperature. A milk sample is taken for laboratory analysis. At the lab, milk is tested for protein and fat content, for sediment and added water, for rancidity, for somatic cell and bacteria count, and for drug residues.

Each tanker load of milk is tested for drugs at the milk plant before it is unloaded. If contaminated, the load is dumped and most of the loss is borne by the specific farmers who caused the problem. Thus, it is very important you practice good sanitation, proper drug handling procedures, and keep milk cold.

By working together we will keep consumer confidence high in our product.

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "The formula for failure is resting on our laurels."*



BAD NEWS  
&  
GOOD NEWS  
December 5, 1993

**Background Scripture:**  
Luke 1:5-25; 3:1-18  
**Devotional Reading:**  
Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-12

Someone once remarked to me that "the Good News of the Gospel can sound remarkably like bad news; how can 'good news' begin with a call for repentance."

It's true that, when we first hear that admonition to "repent," it seems very threatening. If we are called to "repent," it means that something is wrong with us or our lives, something we need to feel sorry about. Feeling sorry about ourselves does not sound like "good news."

Years ago, when I was a young pastor fresh out of seminary, I took Holy Communion into the homes of some shut-ins of our parish. One day when I asked an elderly woman to pray with me the Prayer of General Confession, she said, "But why? I haven't anything to confess; I'm stuck here in this house, this room and this bed, day after day." Taken aback as I was, I'm not sure how I responded to her. I think I said something to the effect that everyone always has something of which to repent; none of us are ever perfect.

### NONE RIGHTEOUS

Like many people I've encountered since then, this woman focused upon sins rather than sin, upon infractions of the rules instead of the selfish willfulness within that lies behind those infractions. Sins are the outward acts, while sin is the inner reality. We may be able to go through periods of our lives without committing sinful acts (although not as much as we like to think), but hardly a day goes by that sin doesn't lodge within our hearts. Jung regarded this inner reality as the "shadow" or "dark side" of the human psyche. All of us have a

"shadow" side. We may not let it take over and direct our lives, but it is always there, tempting us. All of us experience failure; all of us fail at some time to do and be the best that we can; none of us live up to the potential that God has placed within us.

So, that sounds like "bad news," but actually the very fact that we can repent is the best possible news because it means we are not stuck with our sin, our failures, and our shadow side. Think of the moral failures in your own life and then imagine what it would be like if there was no forgiveness.

### DIVINE REDEMPTION!

Some people charge that the Church is obsessed with human sinfulness, always emphasizing how unworthy we are. I will agree that the message as it sometimes comes across, is very much that; the bad news of human depravity. But the call to repent that John the Baptist issues and which later Jesus himself began with, is focused not on the bad news of human depravity but upon the good news of divine redemption.

Thus, when we are called to repent, it is a reminder that we are not stuck with our sin for here and eternity. Once we acknowledge it, we can deal with it and experience the forgiving grace of God. As Luke tells us, John came "preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 3:3b), not a baptism for despair of condemnation.

That's the best possible news for me and, I'm certain, for you, too.

\*\*\*

(Note: the 34th Ski & Spa Holiday in Badgastein, Austria, led by the Althouses is set for March 4-19, 1994. For information, contact: 4412 Shenandoah Ave., Dallas, TX 75205.

## Farm Calendar



**Saturday, December 4**  
National 4-H Congress, thru Dec. 8.

Estate Planning Seminar, Holiday Inn, Hagerstown, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Maryland Pleasure Horse Seminar, South Carroll High School, Winfield, Md., 8:30 a.m.

**Sunday, December 5**

**Monday, December 6**  
Agronomy Ag-Service School, Bradford County Extension, Towanda, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Biological Control of Farm Insects, Ag Room, Cumberland Valley High School, New Kingstown, 8 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 7**

Solanco Young Farmers meeting, Farm Liability, Solanco High School Ag Classroom, 7:30 p.m.

Mid-Atlantic Cooperative Extension meeting (MACE), University of Delaware, Newark, Del.

Lancaster DHIA annual meeting, Good and Plenty Restaurant, 11:30 a.m.  
Southwest Pennsylvania Hay Auction, Westmoreland Fairgrounds.

Agronomy Ag-Service School, Berks County Agri-Center, Leesport, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Franklin County Cooperative Extension Dairy Reproductive Management Workshop, Rhodes Grove Camp Conference Center, Chambersburg, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., thru Dec. 8.  
Stray Voltage Satellite Conference, Cambria Extension

Office, Ebensburg, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Coping With Labor Problems Seminar, Penn State Great Valley, Malvern, repeats Dec. 14.

**Wednesday, December 8**

ADADC District 21 meeting, Bryncliff Motel and Conference Center, Varysburg, N.Y., noon.

Agronomy Ag-Service School, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

On-Farm Biogas Production Conference, Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland, 9:30 a.m.

Dairy-MAP winter meeting, Bonanza Family Restaurant, Lyndora, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Grounds Managers' Winter Seminar, Warrington Motor Lodge, Warrington.

Fayette County agronomic and pesticide update credit meeting, John Brown Farm Equipment, Perryopolis, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, December 9**

Ag Issues Forum, Congressman Tom Ridge, Historic Strasburg Inn, Strasburg, 7:30 a.m.-9 a.m.

Adams DHIA annual meeting, Harney, Md., 6:30 p.m.

Agronomy Ag-Service School, Quality Inn (Embers), Carlisle, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Western Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers meeting, Days Inn, Butler, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Dairy-MAP, Washington County Extension, Washington, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Regulations Compliance Seminar, Neshaminy Manor Center, Dowlstown.

**Friday, December 10**

Agronomy Ag-Service School, Brynwood Inn, Lewisburg, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Saturday, December 11**

**Sunday, December 12**

**Monday, December 13**

**Tuesday, December 14**

Rutgers University 15th annual pest control meeting, Holiday Inn, Bridgeport, N.J., thru Dec. 15.

New England Small Fruit and Vegetable Grower Conference and Trade Show, Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge, Mass., thru Dec. 16.

Dairy-MAP winter meeting, Somerset County Area Voc-Tech School, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Leadership Lebanon Valley Ag Day, Lebanon Valley Ag Center.

**Wednesday, December 15**

Dairy-MAP winter meeting, Bonanza Family Restaurant, Lyndora, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Westmoreland County Cooperative Extension dinner meeting, Mountain View Inn, Greensburg, 7 p.m.

Veterinary Nutrition Forum, Days Inn, Lancaster, 7 p.m.

(Turn to Page A31)

## Lancaster Farming

Established 1955

Published Every Saturday  
Ephrata Review Building  
1 E. Main St.  
Ephrata, PA 17522

— by —

Lancaster Farming, Inc.

A Stehman Enterprise

Robert G. Campbell General Manager  
Everett R. Newwenger Managing Editor

Copyright 1993 by Lancaster Farming