



## OPINION

### A Serious Business

A dairy farmer called us this week to ask us to warn other farmers they may get hurt if medicine residues get into their milk. Most milk handlers make the farmer pay for the part of the tank truck load they have contaminated.

The only people who get caught are the ones who are careless and use extra label drugs in their dairy herds.

Not!

The farmer who talked to us was following the drug label, according to approved regulations, but he got caught last Friday.

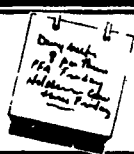
In an effort to find out why, this dairyman took milk meant for his family's consumption from Friday's tank to a professional lab. These samples from the supposedly contaminated tank tested negative. In addition, the dairyman has a negative test from the next day's milk that was produced from the same feed formulation he has used for the last four years. He has record of the number of pounds of product he put into the TMR mixer to show he used the drug according to label, and he knows that several neighbors with milk in the same condemned tank truck load use the same product at the same level, but their samples tested negative.

Actually, this is not the first time this kind of problem has been reported to us. And when it happens the farmer is at the mercy of the buyer's test. Even if for some unexplained reason a sample shows positive, the farmer has no recourse even if he followed all the rules. Proof that you have followed the label has not stood up in court against evidence of a positive sample test.

We look on from the outside, but this seems like a situation that would be like the Super Bowl played with unmarked goal posts. The kicker knows the goal posts are somewhere in the end zone. He kicks the ball toward the place where the official rules say the goal should be and then waits for the referees to make a secret ruling to see if the ball has cleared the markers or not.

What a serious game dairy farming has become! You think it can't happen to you. That's what the above dairyman thought. But evidently it can.

## Farm Calendar



### Saturday, February 5

Small Business Development Seminar, Cross Creek Resort, Titusville, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Lancaster County 4-H Benefit Auction, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.  
EAYFA annual banquet, Durlach/Mt. Airy Fire Hall, 6:45 p.m.

### Sunday, February 6

### Monday, February 7

ISA Penn-Del Chapter Annual Shade Tree Symposium, Host Conference Center, Lancaster, thru Feb. 8.

Integrated Crop Production Workshop, Schuylkill Campus, Schuylkill Haven, continues Feb. 14 and 21.

PDA pesticide exams, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

Schuylkill Agribusiness Forum, Pine View Acres, Pottsville, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Pa. Dairy Promotion Program, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Adams County Crops and Soils Day, extension office, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Blair/Huntingdon Crops Day, Fir Hall, Alexandria, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tulpehocken Young Farmers meeting, Tulpehocken High School, 7:15 p.m.

### Tuesday, February 8

Pa. Young Farmers Association Winter Convention, Eden Resort and Conference Center, Lancaster, thru Feb. 10.

Sire Power county meeting, Red Lion Cafe, Deturksville.

Intensive Forage School, Lebanon Valley Ag Center, thru Feb. 15.

Lancaster County Crops and Soils Day, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Holstein Winter Forum, Columbus Marriott/North, Columbus, Ohio.

### Wednesday, February 9

Swine producers meeting, Franklin County Extension Office, Chambersburg, 7:30 p.m.

Custom manure haulers meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Pa. Forage School, Gap Diner, Gap, also Feb. 16.

Lebanon Valley National Bank Annual Ag Seminar, Prescott Fire Hall, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Herd Health Management Workshop, Rostraver Grange, Belle Vernon, 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Farm tax update meeting, Country Focht's Restaurant, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

York County Soybean Growers

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## Farm Forum

Every time we start talking about a new-improved dairy bill, the red flags go up all over the areas. Some political people and many farm leaders cry out — oh, you can't change things, congress is against you — your program will cost taxpayers too much money and the consumers will turn against you.

First — for one more time let's get things straight. Every dairy farmer must realize one thing.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By John Schwartz  
Lancaster County  
Agricultural Agent

### To Vote In Soybean Referendum

On February 9, all producers who certify they produced soybeans between September 1, 1991 and December 1, 1993 will be eligible to vote in the soybean referendum.

In the referendum, producers will decide if they want to continue to pay the current assessment of one half of one percent of the net market price of the soybeans they sell.

This assessment funds the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Program. In Pennsylvania, a total of \$186,872.53 was collected.

Half the proceeds goes to the national board. The national board supports overseas promotion and new market development. Some of the new market development includes soy ink, soy-based biodiesel, and increased soy in diabetic diets.

The Pennsylvania board spent \$27,047.78 for soybean education and promotion and \$31,838 for in state research. An additional \$80,095.57 was spent for ongoing research and promotion programs.

The registration and voting will take place at your county cooperative extension office. County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) offices will determine eligibility of challenged voters, count ballots, and report referendum results.

### To Keep Cows Pregnant

If you are striving for a 12.5-month calving interval, days open cannot be more than 100 days. If you do not start breeding cows until 60 days after calving, that means you have 40 days to get a cow pregnant. That is only two heat periods.

To have cows pregnant in two heat periods, you need an overall success rate of 50 percent. What does it take to have an overall success rate of 50 percent?

If you successfully detect 70 percent of all possible heats and 70 percent of all services result in pregnancies, your combined success rate is only 49 percent (0.70 times

New dairy programs can be written that will raise prices to dairy farmers and even cost the U.S.D.A. less money.

### U.S.D.A.'s Budget

The total U.S.D.A.'s budget is a little hard to understand because it's made up of categories like: Investment Proposals; Savings Proposals; Agency Programs; Program Levels - Out-lays; and the most important is the Budget

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0.70 equals 0.49). That is no easy task. If your success rates are less, valuable time slips away from you in a hurry.

That is why cow health, proper nutrition, good heat detection, proper timing of insemination, good techniques, and good quality semen are so important.

### To Care For Animals In Cold Weather

According to Dr. Larry Hutchison, Penn State extension veterinarian, most farm animals tolerate cold weather better than humans.

In extremely cold weather, however, there are a few extra measures you may take to ensure the well-being of your livestock.

One thing you may do is increase energy levels in the livestock feed. All classes of livestock require more energy to maintain body temperature in cold weather.

Make sure all livestock have easy access to feed. Hay bales and

feed bunks are harder to reach in deep or drifting snow. You may need to feed in a sheltered area or pack the snow with a tractor around feeding areas.

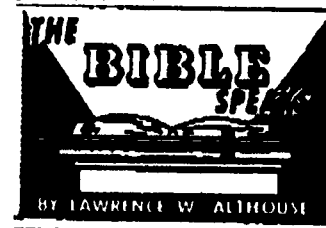
Keep water available. This is hard to do in sub-zero temperatures. Heated watering devices or frequent ice breaking may be necessary.

Always keep air moving in a barn. All livestock generate moisture and heat. A tightly closed building may become so damp that animal comfort and health is worse than if some air movement is maintained.

Help prevent the loss of body heat by using deep bedding and a dry environment as well as wind-breaks for outdoor animals.

With our groundhog friends predicting six more weeks of winter, watch your livestock closely and give them the extra care they need to get through the frigid weather.

*Feather Prof's Footnote:* "Every season of our lives holds a beauty all its own."



### WHO WINS? February 6, 1994

#### Background Scripture:

Luke 18:15-30

#### Devotional Reading:

Matthew 19:13-30

You've heard that line, "The person with the most toys wins!" Although used facetiously for the most part, that saying is a reflection of the value by which our society operates: success is determined by our possessions; the more we have, the more successful we are.

Of course, as Christians, we do not acknowledge that principle — but more than likely we live by it. Even in the church we can see this value at work. Which do we regard as the successful churches? Answer: those with the largest memberships and edifices. Which ministers are judged as the most successful? Answer: those with the largest churches. (They also get the largest salaries.) No matter what we profess, materialism adulterates religion as much as the rest of society.

The big question is not so much "Who wins?", but what is winning? What is success? In other words, in the long run, what is really important? In Luke 18 "winning" is described in three different ways. When they bring infants to him for blessing, Jesus says to his grumbling disciples: "for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (18:17). When the ruler comes to Jesus, he asks about the same reality, saying, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (18:18). And, when Jesus speaks of how hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God, his disciples ask: "Then who can be saved?" (18:26).

#### WHAT COUNTS?

The "kingdom of God", "eternal life", and "saved" — three different terms, but all pretty much expressing the same idea: the supreme reality in the life of each of us. Ultimately, this is what life is about: living in God's kingdom, experiencing eternal life, being saved. When we leave this material world, this is our eternal destiny, our eventual destination. In short, it is the most important

issue of our existence and all others pale by comparison.

Sometimes, when I seem overwhelmed by the present moment, I try to place it in the perspective of eternity. When I pass on to God in the life beyond, how important will this matter be? How will it affect my participation in the kingdom of God? What will it matter to my eternal life? Without fail, the answer that comes to me assures me that this matter, as important as it may seem right now, will be of no consequence.

If this is true — and I believe it is — why do we spend so much of our time and effort on matters which in the perspective of eternity mean so little? It is because we trust in things more than we trust in God. That's why Jesus says to his disciples: "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them: for to such belongs the kingdom of God".

The response of children is that of simple and unquestioning trust. That is what faith is all about — entrusting ourselves to God and his goodness, living as if we believe God is our greatest and most ultimate need.

#### TOYS OR GOD?

That is also the issue that is at stake with the ruler who asks Jesus, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Despite what the ruler says about his desire of eternal life, he indicates by his response to Jesus that he trusts, not in God, but in his material wealth. That's why Luke tells us: "...when he heard this he became sad for he was very rich" (18:23).

It is not that being rich in itself keeps us from the kingdom of God. Being rich is not the problem but depending upon riches for our salvation is. God does not reject the rich man because of his wealth, but often the rich man does not accept the grace of God because he clings to material things. The ruler did not possess his goods; they possessed him.

Much of life comes down to our choices between toys or God. Choosing God is the only way can win.

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